Resources for Technical Writing

What additional information would you like to see on this web page?

Do you know of a useful resource?

Send suggestions/contributions to holly@acm.org

Software

: TeX for Windows

http://www.miktex.org/

Tortoise CVS

Version control for windows

http://www.tortoisecvs.org/

Adobe Illustrator – commercial product

Available on Windows Zoo machines


gnuplot –

plotting data

http://www.gnuplot.info/

Procedures/Policies

ACM journal submission site

http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/acm/

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Bibliographic Databases
ACM Guide to Computing Literature

Includes Bibliographic references in BibTex and EndNote for ACM
and for many other publications in computing (IEEE Computing Society, INFORMS, …)

http://portal.acm.org/portal.cf

“How to” Books and Articles

Strunk and White on-line: “The Elements of Style”
Excellent advice and examples of composition.

http://www.bartleby.com/141/index.html

Assorted Tips and Advice

Advice on technical writing from Columbia Computer Science Dept.
A lot of good tips and useful pointers that are specific to computer science, check out the link to
the automatic title generator!

http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~hgs/etc/writing-style.html

From Prof. Rushmeier:

Google your title
Everyone providing an intellectual contribution to the paper should be an author
The paragraphs in the introduction should not be identical to the abstract.
Don’t bother to say
“We conclude with some concluding remarks”
Authors should not appear in the acknowledgements – only other people who provided help
Acknowledge funding sources at the end of the paper.
Functions may be described as monotonic, but not monotonous.

From Prof. McDermott:

Never harp on how revolutionary your group’s work is.
Never describe your approach as “semantic” (others being “syntactic”)

Never use the word “rich” to describe a representation technique. (It tends to be a cover for “too complex to be tractable.”)

Emphasize what’s good about your approach, not what’s wrong with other approaches.