PCS-J 2nd Technical Meeting (2011)

Time: Saturday, November 12, 2011
Place: UBIC Theater, University of Aizu
(UBIC ＝ University-Business Innovation Center, no. 11 on campus map at http://www.u-aizu.ac.jp/e-intro/e-facilities.html; 産業イノベーションセンター in Japanese). For travel directions to Aizuwakamatsu City and the campus, see http://www.u-aizu.ac.jp/e-access.html

Schedule

1:30 pm
Farewell Lecture: Wisdom for strategic personal growth from 41 years of study
Thomas Orr　(president, IEEE Professional Communication Society)
(Open to the public)

In his final lecture at the University of Aizu, Dr. Orr will share some wisdom for effective personal development from 41 years of personal study.　The principles and perspectives he shares will be of value to anyone of any age who is interested in strategic self improvement.

2:15 pm　Break

3:00 pm　Registration, PCS-J Technical Meeting
(members ￥1,000, non-members ￥1,500)

3:15 pm
Preliminary can-do statements for technical English
Michihiro Hirai

As the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is gradually taking hold as a comprehensive framework for language education and learning worldwide, there is a growing demand for specialized versions tailored to various professions. In an attempt to create one for Japanese scientists and engineers, the presenter has drafted a preliminary general (as opposed to situation-specific) set of Can-Do statements for technical English, as part of a project promoted by the Institute for Professional English Communication (IPEC). While gleaning ideas from a series of discussions held in an IPEC-sponsored forum on English education in Japan for scientists and engineers, the presenter has primarily drawn upon his dual experience as a computer engineer and a teacher of technical English.

3:45 pm

Designing procedural information for user manuals: A case study with circuit graphics

Debopriyo Roy

In traditional instructional design, information designers create instructions with the whole assembly context in mind, while the readers have a smaller context; only being able to follow the instructions in the designer's chosen order and content presentation (text +graphics). A circuit diagram (also known as an electrical diagram, elementary diagram, or electronic schematic) is a simplified conventional graphical representation of an electrical circuit. As part of this presentation, I will discuss how different graphical aids are used for presenting procedural instructions in circuit diagrams. Readers need to understand the context of text and graphics for any complicated procedural task. Process graphics/text show procedural task when the action elements (instruments, hand motion, arrow for motion, direction etc) are involved. Outcome graphics/text show the result of that action without involvement of action elements. This is unlike animations.

The presentation will discuss a few important factors in technical illustrations design, related to circuit diagrams that are important in the field of technical communication. Our major research questions are as follows:

- The extent to which text as aid is understandable?
- Can readers differentiate between process and outcome graphics as aid?
- Do readers understand and coordinate text-graphics information at each sub-assembly level?
- Do readers understand the visual context, independent of configuration and task sequence?
- Can readers make transitions between subassemblies, independent of text?

This presentation will also present on the results of a pilot analysis explaining the extent to which users are able to differentiate between process and outcome orientation in procedural graphics and related instructions. The discussion further allows for understanding the extent to which procedural instructions and graphical units are assessed and analyzed in technical communication.

4:15 pm break

4:30 pm PCS-J Chapter Business Meeting (officer reports; announcement of new board members; planning for 2012; other business)

5:00 meeting closes

[5:30　Informal after-meeting: Table reserved at Gnocchi Gnocchi, Italian restaurant across street from main gate of University of Aizu]