

Book Review

Joanna Schreiber and Lisa Melonçon

Assembling Critical Components: A Framework for Sustaining Technical and Professional Communication

—Reviewed by

VARUN GUPTA  AND CHETNA GUPTA 

Index Terms—*Applied rhetoric, ethics, genres, procedural discourse.*

In *Assembling Critical Components: A Framework for Sustaining Technical and Professional Communication*, editors Joanna Schreiber and Lisa Melonçon provide a compilation of scholarly chapters that focus on the various components of technical and professional communication (TPC) that, together, give it a distinct identity, and that must be sustainable. Reflection and upkeep of TPC components maintain the longevity of its identity. By critically analyzing what these fragments signify collectively as an identity, it is possible to develop a perspective that is durable for visualizing the TPC identity. Some of the TPC components included in this work are genres, ethics, procedural knowledge, procedural discourse, sociotechnical contexts, applied rhetoric, and participatory action research.

The book's 10 chapters are divided into three sections, each of which is underpinned by a strong research technique, strong theoretical foundation, and the authors' real-world experiences.

Chapter 1 advocates workplace phronesis driven by genre ecologies entirely centered around genre theory. The results are based on interviews conducted with 10 instructors and content analysis of their course documents. The issues with limited

sample size were addressed by collecting data from multiple sources like student de-identified resumes and cover letters to achieve data triangulation. The chapter reports three implications: TPC's ability to integrate content areas into service courses, using theory for workplace phronesis, and the content-centric nature of workplace phronesis.

Chapter 2 analyzes the trends across TPC research by examining research abstracts of articles across issues of five technical communication journals published from 2000 to 2017. The results indicate that research is more aligned toward digital communication, for instance, extensive use of multimodal terminology in research. Further, the TPC field has expanded as research includes new terminology and audiences. For instance, most of the articles include the word *community*, which signifies that TPC is more geared for communities as an audience rather than individual users. Finally, there has not been much change in terms of a focus on technical aspects of the field: communicators and communication.

Chapter 3 analyzes 60 graduate-level technical communication course syllabi across 45 institutions and creates a co-citation network from it. The results indicate that the TPC discipline has now matured, is coherent, and has emerged as a discipline (a "shared body of knowledge or texts," p. 79) as revealed by analysis of the co-citation maps.

Chapter 4 advances the understanding of the TPC domain and suggests that situational research, which might look at professional actions within conflicting discourses, is made possible by looking at professional discourse as a function, as opposed to an occupational position.

Manuscript received 11 October 2022; accepted 11 October 2022. Date of current version 28 November 2022.

(Corresponding author: Varun Gupta.)

V. Gupta is with the GISMA University of Applied Sciences, 14469 Potsdam, Germany, and also with the Multidisciplinary Research Centre for Innovations in SMEs (MrciS), GISMA University of Applied Sciences, 14469 Potsdam, Germany (email: varun.iit13@gmail.com).

C. Gupta is with the Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Noida 201305, India (email: chetnagupta04@gmail.com).

IEEE 10.1109/TPC.2022.3214412

Book publisher: University Press of Colorado, Boulder, CO, USA, 308 pages, including index.

Chapter 5 explores the fascinating subjects of procedural knowledge, procedural discourse, and descriptive discourse (or system-oriented discourse). This chapter makes the case that to promote the growth of procedural knowledge, procedural discourse must be carefully crafted. Finally, the research areas for the future are identified.

Chapter 6 shows that creating and reading an informational text involves making decisions and solving problems. Information delivery in a complex context that encourages problem solving and decision-making is necessary in technical communication. This necessitates that the information be placed in relation to sociotechnical conditions, i.e., aligning with social and technological facets of a complicated issue. This chapter promotes using a sociotechnical perspective while making decisions and solving problems.

Chapter 7 explains how applied rhetoric can be used to represent transdisciplinary activity in the TPC domain. The authors use various examples to demonstrate how these connections will aid TPC in tackling challenging problems and creating more efficient procedures.

Chapter 8 focuses on regulatory documentation criteria that can be used to approve biomedical research or decisions about medical products, exposing the intellectual framework of such a study. Technical communicators will find these suggestions to be much more beneficial.

Chapter 9 explains the aspects of accessibility and disability in TPC research. This chapter promotes employing participatory action research to boost the involvement of people with disabilities in TPC classrooms. The use of participatory action research is then further explained using two real-world examples.

Chapter 10 analyzes the intercultural and transnational facets of TPC research. An examination of research publications distributed over seven TPC publishing channels serves as the foundation for the findings. According to the findings, TPC research is organized as national border-crossing initiatives. In other words, there are intercultural and international components to TPC research. For the intercultural and transnational TPC research among the many cultures, a common ethics statement must be developed.

This book may be helpful to academics, industry professionals, and students alike. It provides professionals with a novel viewpoint on several TPC facets across various application fields, such as biomedical writing. This book offers a deep understanding of TPC and focuses on several intriguing subjects, such as intercultural and transnational dimensions, and accessibility and disability. One of the strengths of the book is the abundance of real-world examples and research studies with trustworthy research protocols spread throughout several chapters. This book is undoubtedly a great resource for learning about the subject, its trends, and new problems that may arise in the future.