

## Journal of Technical Writing and Communication

By: Adam Robert Clegg

### About the Journal

Established over thirty years ago, the Journal of Technical Writing and Communication is a highly decorated publication with articles that all kinds of Technical Writers and Communicators will find useful. The journal wishes to serve as a bridge between the world of academia with that of the professional world. To this end, the journal tries to serve a wide range of audiences, from Audience Analysts, authors of Online Documentation, and Word Processing specialists.

The Journal is available both electronically and in print thanks to Baywood Publishing Company Inc. Individual subscriptions run \$71.00 while Institutions pay \$283.00 as of September 2005.

### A resource of renown

In their effort, the Journal of Technical Writing and Communication has been recognized by a number of organizations including the *National Council Teachers of English* and *Society for Technical Communication*. Some of the specific awards the journal has won include:

- **Best Article** Reporting Qualitative or Quantitative Research in Technical or Scientific Communication was awarded by the National Council Teachers of English (NCTE) for Expert Judgments Versus Reader Feedback written by Menno D. T. DeJong and Leo R. Lentz.

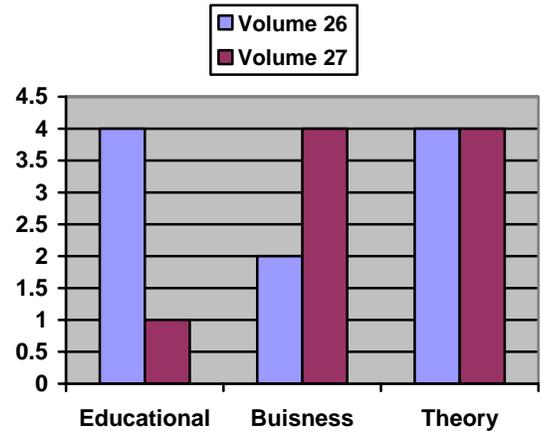


Figure 1

- **Best Article** Reporting Historical or Textual Studies in Technical Communication was awarded by the NCTE for Women's Technologies, Women's Literacies: Sewing and Computing Across the Years by Liz Rohan.

While these awards are impressive, you'll notice that all the "best article" awards were given by the National Council Teachers of English. This most likely means that the articles are excellent from an educational stand point, but what about the business related content? The website makes no mention of any awards won by its business articles. Perhaps this shows the journal gives a emphasis to theoretical articles rather than ones that have a direct correlation to business or management.

### A journal for everyone

To study how well the Journal of Technical Writing and Communication served which members of the community, I picked two issues of the journal and looked over the abstracts of its articles. I then lumped the articles as either Educational, Business/Management articles, or Theory articles. The issues I studied were volumes 26 and 27. My findings are displayed in Figure 1.

Please note that a few of the articles seemed to serve more than one audience, so I marked them as such.

As you can see from the findings, volume 27 had a greater number of articles that regarded business, while volume 26 had a greater number of articles that regarded education. Both articles placed a similar weight on theory articles. Since technical communication theory can be applicable to both professionals and educators, this demonstrates a goal on the part of the journal to reach the widest number of potential readers in the field as possible. This lack of generalization makes the journal a good read, but means that readers with no interest in business or educational ends of the field might want to look for a more focused journal.

### Assessment

The Journal of Technical Communication is without a doubt a useful resource. Teachers, professionals and researchers should find content within its pages that they will find useful in their work, plus its wide range of topics can keep them up to date with developments all over the field.

However, the Journal's generalist view means that those who want a more focused approach to their field may want to look elsewhere for a more in depth resource. With the ability to go either print or digital though, any technical communicator should be able to find some use out of the Journal of Technical Communication.