

**SIGDOC Annual Report**  
**July, 1999 - June, 2000**  
**Submitted by: Kathy Haramundanis, Chair**

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SIGDOC continues its 18 year history as a key organization that brings together academic, corporate, and independent consultant worlds in a vibrant and active technical communications community. Several new initiatives have begun to bear fruit for both SIGDOC and ACM.

**Awards:**

At our 1999 conference, held in New Orleans, the prestigious Rigo Award, given for significant, long-term contributions to the field, was given to Terry Winograd, of Stanford University. His extensive work on cognition has been the backbone of increased work and understanding that has benefited the technical communications discipline. His talk at the SIGDOC 99 conference was the center of a lively discussion.

Our Diana Award was presented to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, accepted by Dr. Robert Krull, who gave a rousing talk that will continue to be food for thought for technical communicators to come.

The graduate student award was given to an exceptional study by Margaret Martinez, "Intentional Learning in an Intentional World; New Perspectives on Audience Analysis and Instructional Design for Successful Learning and Performance." Ms. Martinez presented her paper at the conference, which generated a great deal of interest in the excellent piece of research she did and in its repercussions for how people learn. Her research has added a significant new view on the varieties of audience that everyone doing technical communications should understand and apply.

We have instituted a new undergraduate scholarship to be awarded for the first time in September 2000.

**Journal:**

We continue the publication of our SIGDOC Journal, now renamed the ACM Journal of Computer Documentation, and now given the full status of an ACM journal. JCD will continue its quarterly production schedule and be included in the ACM Digital Library. The outstanding work of the Editor in Chief, T.R. Girill, and the Production Editor, Susan Jones, have for long sustained this effort and made it the success it is. They have been ably assisted by a full team of editors for the various activities of the journal.

We have begun an all-electronic Newsletter, under the editorship of Susan Pillsbury, that supplements JCD, and provides information to SIGDOC membership by email.

**Membership:**

Membership in the SIG has not increased significantly, although it does rise and fall. A membership drive and an updated brochure increased membership slightly, but did not replace lost members. We continue to explore other ways to attract new members, and to determine why members do not stay with the SIG.

We have continued the Members Plus program, in which members receive a copy of the current year's Conference Proceedings in addition to JCD and the Newsletter. We have also continued to provide access to the SIGDOC portion of the ACM Digital Library as a basic member benefit.

To increase interest in membership in the SIG, we printed SIGDOC's first Membership Directory, which was sent to all members of record. This document is a significant resource for members.

**Outreach to other societies:**

We continue to work with other technical communication societies such as IEEE PCS, ran our 1999 conference in New Orleans back-to-back with them, and are running our 2000 conference fully joint with them. SIGDOC has also joined an international umbrella technical communications society, INTECOM, which adds to the benefits we offer our members, and increases our exposure worldwide.

- The SIGDOC web site (<http://www.acm.org/sigdoc/>) remains a key component of our SIG, with frequent updates and links to online registration for our conference.
- Planning for our next conferences continues, with the 2001 conference planned for Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- We continue to benefit from the enthusiastic work of an outstanding Executive Board, among whose members are our past chair Nina Wishbow, our past Vice Chair, Stephanie Rosenbaum, and conference chairs Johndan Johnson-Eilola, Stuart Selber, Susan Jones, and others who have contributed much of their time and interest in helping to make the SIG a success. We continue to look for ways to make the SIG increasingly attractive to our current members and to identify areas that will make it more interesting to new members.

