

**Annual SIGDOC Report**  
**Submitted by Kathy Haramundanis, SIGDOC Chair**  
**July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999**

SIGDOC continues its 17-year history as a forward-looking organization bringing information technology practitioners and academics together in the technical communications community.

**Awards:**

- Our prestigious SIGDOC Rigo Award, for significant individual, long-term contributions, was given to Dr. Patricia Wright, who has made many contributions in the field of technical communications, in particular in the area of human-computer interaction. Her pioneering work with early electronic devices and the handicapped have been fundamental to our understanding of how people use technology, and her research in document design and readable writing have informed the wider technical communications community.
- The SIGDOC Diana Award was presented to Netscape for their innovative tools and capabilities that we all enjoy today as part of the expanding internet.
- Our graduate student competition drew in several extremely interesting papers. The winning paper will be published in our newsletter, \*Journal of Computer Documentation, and the award winner will be part of a group of student winners presenting jointly at our conference in 1999.
- We are planning a new undergraduate award to encourage students earlier in the educational process to become engaged in the SIG.

**Newsletter/ Journal:**

- To increase the exposure and visibility of the excellent materials in our newsletter, we have initiated the elevation of our newsletter \*JCD to full journal status at ACM, starting in 2000. With the approval of ACM and the ACM Publications Board, \*JCD will become a journal with a quarterly production cycle and inclusion in the ACM Digital Library. The outstanding work of our editor-in-chief, T.R. Girill, has made this transition possible, and the work of his exceptional editorial board.
- With the advent of the new journal, material of a more transient nature will be published electronically to the membership in an electronic newsletter. This newsletter will be inaugurated in the transition period before the first issue of \*JCD in the Digital Library. Members will continue to receive \*JCD as a hardcopy publication, and will additionally receive the electronic newsletter.

**Membership:**

- For the first months of the year we had steady membership increases, but the last few months have seen a more downward trend. We engaged in a membership drive, creating a new brochure and distributing it at conferences run by other organizations. We plan to continue this activity, and to find other ways to attract members.
- The Members Plus program which we made available to our membership a year ago has become popular, and we have also provided free access to the ACM Digital Library SIGDOC section for our members. The Members Plus program provides a copy of the current year proceedings to members.

**Outreach to other societies:**

- As part of our drive to obtain more exposure and increase interest in the SIG, we have been in contact with other ACM SIGs and also with sister societies, including IEEE PCS and INTECOM.
- We have collaborative agreements with our IEEE counterpart, PCS, and ran our 1998 conference in conjunction with them. We are running our 1999 conference back to back with PCS in the same venue in New Orleans, and will have a fully joint conference in 2000. We also plan to find other ACM SIGs who have similar or overlapping interests and perhaps arrange to run a conference together. .
- We have been extremely lucky in an exceptional Executive Board including our past chair Nina Wishbow, our current Vice Chair Stephanie Rosenbaum, whose enthusiasm and support have been instrumental to our success this past year.
- Our web site ([URL: www.acm.org/sigdoc](http://www.acm.org/sigdoc)) remains a key component of our SIG, with frequent updates and links to online registration for our conference.
- We continue to do advance planning for our next conferences, and have plans begun or in development up to 2002.
- Long term planning for officers, new members, journal development, and new member services remain goals for the future.