

Article Review

Introduction

In *A Brief History of Technical Communications* by Frederick M. O'Hara, Jr. [1], a discussion was made about the role technical communication has played in history. The article introduced many significant historical events in technical communication backed by facts and supplemented with examples. The use of tables, graphs, and lists captured readers' attention on important material. There were however, four main issues with the article, no citations, use of unnecessary words and phrases, use of complex words, and repetition of paragraphs. Issues must be corrected before a final decision will be made. The following paragraphs provide justification for the corrections.

Proposed Revisions

Paraphrased material must be cited. A list of sources was provided but the sources were never cited within the article. Citations give credit to the original authors, allows readers to differentiate between the possession of different ideas, and shows that ideas are supported by research [2].

Unnecessary words and phrases must be removed to help improve and convey ideas clearly and without confusion [3]. Remove the phrase "*a case can be made that* [1]," on page one, paragraph three, first sentence because the phrase adds no meaning. On the first page, paragraph four, sentence two, the phrase "*not only... but matched* [1]" in "*what emerged was a social system that not only matched but even surpassed the advances... [1]*," was unnecessary because when having already mentioned the social system "*surpassed the advances in language, travel, [etc.] [1]*," the social system can be inferred to have also matched the advances. On the first page, fifth paragraph, seventh sentence, "*literally and truly* [1]" in "*literally and truly a renaissance man... [1]*," a choice of either literally or truly will convey the idea since literally and truly are synonyms of each other. On page one, paragraph six, last sentence, the phrase "*legitimately be considered* [1]," is again, unnecessary because the information given by the previous sentences prove that Erasmus was "*the first technical editor [1]*." On page two, third paragraph, first sentence, the "therefore" in "*the conduct of research, and therefore of the reporting of... [1]*," was unnecessary because the publishing of research can be inferred to follow given the main objective of conducting research is to produce results, but results are useless if they are not published.

Simpler word choices must be chosen for quick and easy comprehension by readers [4]. Use simpler words on page one, paragraph one, sentence three, in place of "advent" in "*rapid change in technical communication has been obvious during the past few decades with the advent of computers... [1]*," on page one, paragraph six, sentence three, in place of "periodicals" in "*these periodicals were established by the emerging scientific societies... [1]*," and on page two, paragraph seven, first sentence, in place of "undergirded" in "*support for science and technology continued to be strong and undergirded new connections [1]*."

Repeated paragraphs must be removed to avoid unnecessary redundancy and to help show evidence of proofreading. Paragraphs three, four, and five on page three were identical to the previous three paragraphs.

Conclusion

A very informative article but filled with careless issues proofreading would have fixed. Proofreading has been done for pages one and two, and issues such as citation, unnecessary wording, word choice, and paragraph repetition have been identified as proposed revisions. Proofreading the article from page two onwards is a must. A final decision will be made given all proposed issues are corrected on a resubmitted copy.

References

- [1] F. M. O'Hara, "A Brief History of Technical Communication," *Montana State University Billings*.
[Online]. Available:
http://www.msubit.edu/cotfaculty/fullon/_notes/History%20of%20Technical%20Communication%20%282%29.pdf. [Accessed: 22-Jan-2018].
- [2] "What Is Citation?," *P.org*, 18-May-2017. [Online]. Available:
<http://www.plagiarism.org/article/what-is-citation>. [Accessed: 17-Jan-2018].
- [3] "Be concise," *plainlanguage.gov*. [Online]. Available:
<https://www.plainlanguage.gov/guidelines/concise/>. [Accessed: 17-Jan-2018].
- [4] B. Lampton, "Simple Words Work Best," *plainlanguage.gov*. [Online]. Available:
<https://www.plainlanguage.gov/resources/articles/simple-words-work-best/>. [Accessed: 17-Jan-2018].