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Assignment 1 Final Draft

Introduction

The word “brief” is in the title of Frederick M. O'Hara’s article, A Brief History of Technical Communication [1], however, there are a lot of redundant words and clauses which provide unnecessary context. O’Hara’s article also contains many technical words which are difficult to understand. For the average person, O’Hara’s article will be easier to understand with the revisioning of certain passages.

Proposed Revisions

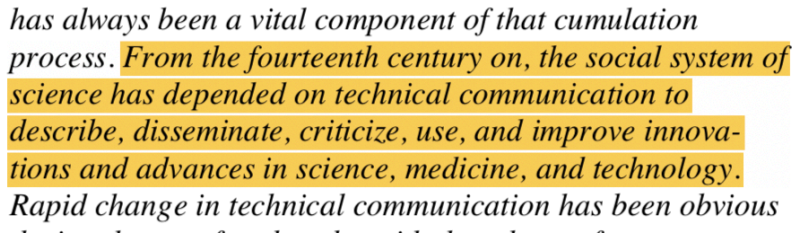
has always been a vital component of that cumulation process. From the fourteenth century on, the social system of science has depended on technical communication to describe, disseminate, criticize, use, and improve innovations and advances in science, medicine, and technology. Rapid change in technical communication has been obvious

Fig. 1 [1] Original passage 1

The concept of “the social system of science” can be misinterpreted into associating science with irrelevant notions such as partying - especially if the reader does not have a scientific background. In addition to this, it is redundant to specify both “innovations and advances in science” because it means the same thing.

Proposed Revision 1: “The scientific communities’ dependence on technical communication has allowed for advances in science, medicine and technology.”

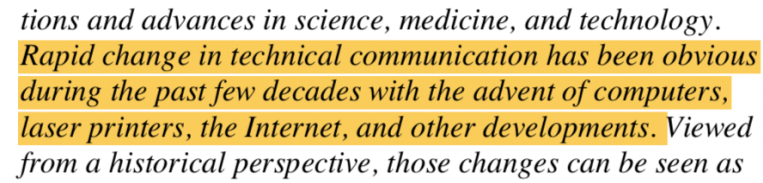
tions and advances in science, medicine, and technology. Rapid change in technical communication has been obvious during the past few decades with the advent of computers, laser printers, the Internet, and other developments. Viewed from a historical perspective, those changes can be seen as

Fig. 2 [1] Original passage 2

Stating that the “rapid change in technical communication has been obvious” in Fig. 2 is confusing as well as redundant because it does not address to who it has been obvious for.

Proposed revision 2**:** Advancement in technology has caused a rapid change in technical communication.

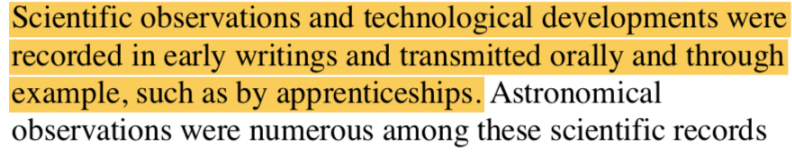
Scientific observations and technological developments were recorded in early writings and transmitted orally and through example, such as by apprenticeships. Astronomical observations were numerous among these scientific records

Fig. 3 [1] Original passage 3

Many readers do not understand what an apprenticeship is and the words “transmitted orally” in Fig. 3 can be easily misinterpreted into unrelated concepts such as viruses being transmitted around.

Proposed revision 3: Past knowledge of scientific observations and technological developments was recorded and passed on to younger generations.

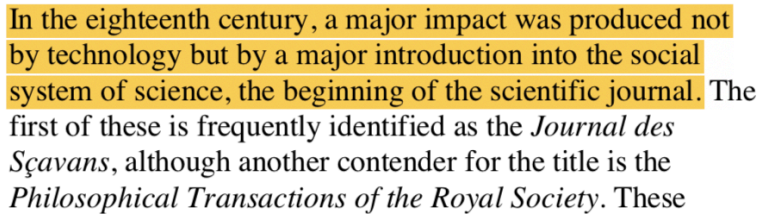
In the eighteenth century, a major impact was produced not by technology but by a major introduction into the social system of science, the beginning of the scientific journal. The first of these is frequently identified as the *Journal des Sçavans*, although another contender for the title is the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*. These

Fig.4 [1] Original passage 4

There are two cases of the word “major” in Fig. 4 which adds redundancy. In addition to this, the phrase “the beginning of the scientific journal” is confusing because it makes the scientific journal sound like an event that occurred and not an innovation.

Proposed revision 4: The start of the use of scientific journals in the eighteenth century had a major impact on the scientific community.

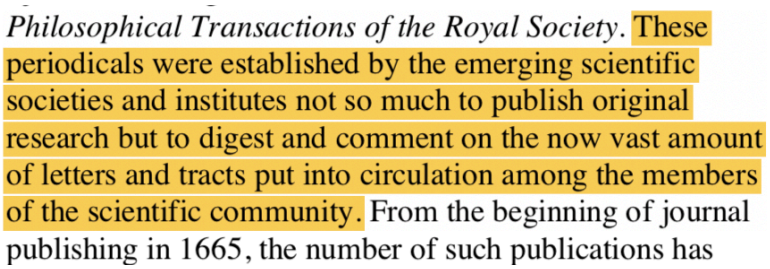
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society. These periodicals were established by the emerging scientific societies and institutes not so much to publish original research but to digest and comment on the now vast amount of letters and tracts put into circulation among the members of the scientific community. From the beginning of journal publishing in 1665, the number of such publications has

Fig.5 [1] Original passage 5

The word “periodicals” sounds too technical and can be replaced by magazines or newspapers which are more easily understood by readers. In addition to this, the word established should be removed because it confuses the idea of magazines and makes them sound like a business or establishment.

Proposed revision: Scientific societies used these journals to understand and comment on scientific observations.

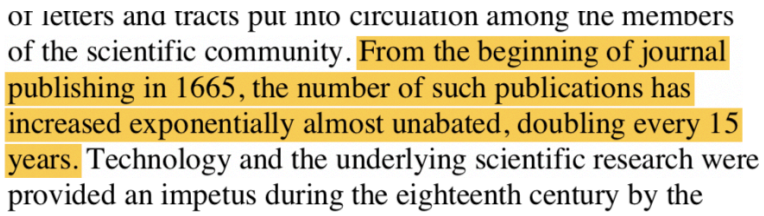
of letters and tracts put into circulation among the members of the scientific community. From the beginning of journal publishing in 1665, the number of such publications has increased exponentially almost unabated, doubling every 15 years. Technology and the underlying scientific research were provided an impetus during the eighteenth century by the

Fig. 6 [1] Original passage 6

The phrase “almost unabated” in Fig. 6 is redundant as well as “increased exponentially” because it is saying the same thing as “doubling every 15 years”.

Proposed revision: The number of journal publications increased exponentially since the start of journal publishing in 1665.

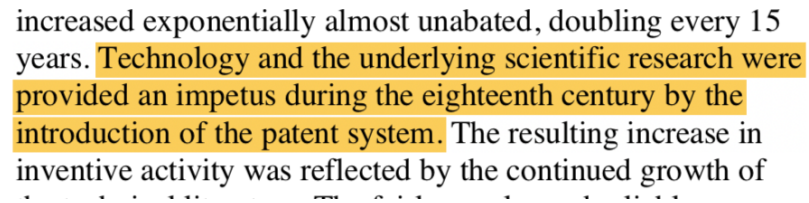
increased exponentially almost unabated, doubling every 15 years. Technology and the underlying scientific research were provided an impetus during the eighteenth century by the introduction of the patent system. The resulting increase in inventive activity was reflected by the continued growth of

Fig. 7 [1] Original passage 7

The definition of the word “impetus” in Fig. 7 is confusing and should be removed because the patent system is not clearly defined.

Proposed revision: The introduction of the patent system in the eighteenth century motivated the scientific research associated with technology.

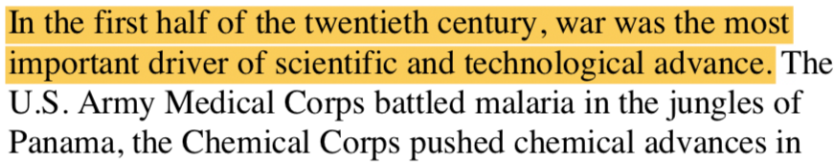
In the first half of the twentieth century, war was the most important driver of scientific and technological advance. The U.S. Army Medical Corps battled malaria in the jungles of Panama, the Chemical Corps pushed chemical advances in

Fig. 8 [1] Original passage 8

Associating war with the word “driver” in Fig. 8 makes war sound as if it can drive automobiles. “[D]river” has a confusing meaning when used in this context and should be removed.

Proposed Revision: War was the most important cause of scientific and technological advance in the early twentieth century.

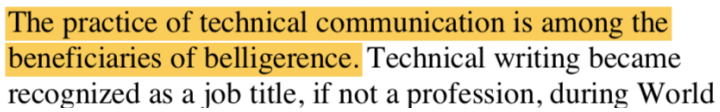
The practice of technical communication is among the beneficiaries of belligerence. Technical writing became recognized as a job title, if not a profession, during World

Fig. 9 [1] Original passage 9

The phrase “beneficiaries of belligerence” in Fig. 9 is too technical because the definition of the word “belligerence” is confusing. Belligerence means “warlike behaviour” in this passage and should be changed to that so that the context can be more easily understood.

Proposed revision: The use of technical communication is a benefit in warlike behaviour.

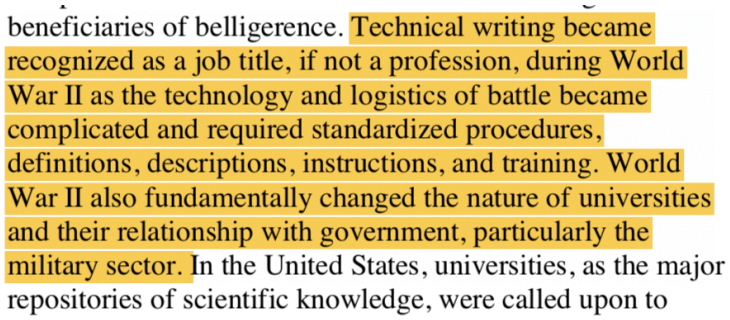
beneficiaries of belligerence. Technical writing became recognized as a job title, if not a profession, during World War II as the technology and logistics of battle became complicated and required standardized procedures, definitions, descriptions, instructions, and training. World War II also fundamentally changed the nature of universities and their relationship with government, particularly the military sector. In the United States, universities, as the major repositories of scientific knowledge, were called upon to

Fig. 10 [1] Original passage 10

It is redundant to list the requirements of battle because the subject is about technical writing and not about World War II. Also, the phrase “nature of universities” in Fig. 10 is confusing because it can be misinterpreted into associating things of nature such as trees and animals with universities.

Proposed revision: Technical writing became a profession because of World War II due to the complicated technology and logistics of battle. World War II also changed universities and their relationship with the government; particularly the military sector.

Conclusion

As it is now, O’Hara’s article is too difficult to understand. The modification of O’Hara’s original article with the aforementioned proposed revisions will supplement the article’s readability and allow it to be more easily understood by people who are interested in the history of technical communication without having prior knowledge in that subject.

References

[1] O’Hara, F. (2018). A Brief History of Technical Communication