

Special Needs Committee Brochure

My major role in this project was to design the layout and write a draft of the content. The logo on the cover was created by a graphics artist (TeriLee Bishop), and the entire committee provided input for the text. This was a pro bono project; I serve as the low-vision expert on the Society for Technical Communication's Special Needs Committee.

This brochure won an Award of Excellence in the 2001 APEX publication competition.



People Helping People



The mission of the Society for Technical Communication's Special Needs Committee is to help members with special needs achieve their potential. We accomplish this by making available to them information about products, services, and literature that can assist them in their career activities.

Examples of "special needs" include speech recognition software, Braille keyboards, improved wheelchair access, or a TDD business line.

Managers and instructors are often unaware of resources that could help those with special needs. Additionally, they may be unaware of ethical guidelines that are also important in such cases. The Special Needs Committee is the first STC-supported endeavor to address these gaps.

How Can We Help You?



- By identifying products, services, and literature that may be useful to individuals with special needs.
- By identifying people (or their employers or instructors) who need the products, services, and literature.
- By serving as a clearinghouse to match people with products, services, and/or relevant literature relating to a variety of special needs.
- By promoting ethical practices among professionals when working with individuals with special needs.

The Special Needs Committee does not diagnose, prescribe, or endorse. We simply provide information to those who want it.

Resources at Your Fingertips



The Special Needs Committee Web site provides an efficient system for readers to conduct keyword searches on products, services, and literature relating to special needs.

www.stc.org/committees/special_needs

The Web site offers access to searchable databases that contain information on issues such as dexterity, mobility, vision, speech and hearing, aging, and ethics.

If you do not have access to the World Wide Web, please contact Dan Voss, Committee Manager, at (407) 356-6508.

Committee Manager Emeritus
Judy Skinner says, “As a
communicator with disabilities, I
know first-hand the importance of
technology and community
services.”

Jodie Gilmore, a senior STC
member who is legally blind,
points out, “Sometimes a ‘need’
can be as simple as a drafting
table or an ergonomically correct
platform for a computer.”

If you have a disability or special
need, we’d like to hear from
you—especially if you have
solutions you’d like to share with
other people!



We thank the generous companies
that have graciously donated
funds and services to the Special
Needs Committee. For a complete
list of these companies, please see
our Web site:

[www.stc.org/committees/
special_needs](http://www.stc.org/committees/special_needs)

Questions? Feel Free to Contact Us!

Committee Manager
Dan Voss, Lockheed Martin
Orlando Chapter
(407) 356-6508
daniel.w.voss@lmco.com

Manager Emeritus
Judy Skinner
Lone Star Chapter

**Society for
Technical Communication**
901 N. Stuart St., #904
Arlington, VA 22203-1820
(703) 522-4114 (voice)
(703) 522-2075 (fax)

stc@stc.org
www.stc.org

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