

STC – April 2009 Meeting

MSU Graduate: Kristin Lisson (2003)

MOST-USED TOOLS IN TRAINING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Tools	Description
Graphics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TechSmith SnagIt – use for taking basic screen shots and performing screen edits• GIMP 2.0 (open-source version of Photoshop) – use for designing Web graphics
Print and Online Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adobe FrameMaker – use for producing large documents• MS Word (yep, we’re still using this) – use for producing large documents that we can resell source files to customers who don’t have FrameMaker.• RoboHelp – use for our product compiled Help; MadCap Flare for our Web Help (I don’t produce this; we have a separate department for product documentation)
e-Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TechSmith Camtasia 6 – use for creating rapid-development “How To” training videos, mostly for our programmer audience (quick-and-dirty)• Adobe Captivate 3 – use for producing scripted, polished eLearning content for novice users (sales-worthy)• Sony SoundForge – use for creating audio for the Captivate content; also for editing podcasts. Looking for a good microphone? Try the Blue Snowball. It’s \$99, hooks up to USB port, and produces equal (if not better) quality than high-end mics.
Web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adobe (formerly Macromedia) Dreamweaver – use for designing Web content and producing SCORM manifests for eLearning content.• Learning Management System (LMS) – use for managing course offerings and registrations for a large audience.• Questionmark Perception – use for writing and delivering assessment questions.• WebEx Hands On Labs – use for delivering the virtual classroom experience.
Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Google Docs!!! – use to collaborate on spreadsheets and documents between Remote and on-site employees. We use this ALL THE TIME.• Yammer – use for private group instant messaging service between employees• Skype – use for quick conference calls (free) and to record our monthly podcasts.

RECENT READS

- *Designing Effective Instruction* (Morrison, Ross, Kemp, Kalman – 2007)

This was the text from my recent graduate class on Instructional Design.

- *e-Learning and the Science of Instruction: Proven Guidelines for Consumers and Designers of Multimedia Learning* (Clark, Mayer – 2003)

This was a text my boss picked up a couple years ago. It has some good recommendations for designing e-Learning based on actual research.

CONTACT ME

Visit my [FriendFeed](#)¹ for things I'm [digging](#)², [tweeting](#)³, [flickring](#)⁴, [sharing](#)⁵, [blogging](#)⁶, and [linking-in](#)⁷. Recent articles that were fun:

- “How the Web Made Me a Better Copywriter” (Cathy Curtis – 2009).
<http://www.aiga.org/content.cfm/how-the-web-made-me-a-better-copywriter>
- “10 Skills Developers Will Need to Know in the Next 5 Years” (Justin James – 2009).
<http://blogs.techrepublic.com.com/10things/?p=643>
- “Art and Fear” (Bayles and Orland – 2001). Read excerpt here:
<http://www.kottke.org/09/02/art-and-fear>

¹ <http://www.friendfeed.com/klisson>

² <http://www.digg.com/users/klisson>

³ <http://www.twitter.com/klisson>

⁴ <http://www.flickr.com/kristinlisson>

⁵ <http://www.google.com/reader/shared/04950571141174709719>

⁶ <http://klisson.blogspot.com/>

⁷ <http://www.linkedin.com/in/kristinlisson>