

# STC – April 2009 Meeting

*MSU Graduate: Kristin Lisson (2003)*

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## MOST-USED TOOLS IN TRAINING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Tools	Description
Graphics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>TechSmith SnagIt</b> – use for taking basic screen shots and performing screen edits</li><li>• <b>GIMP 2.0</b> (open-source version of Photoshop) – use for designing Web graphics</li></ul>
Print and Online Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Adobe FrameMaker</b> – use for producing large documents</li><li>• <b>MS Word</b> (yep, we’re still using this) – use for producing large documents that we can resell source files to customers who don’t have FrameMaker.</li><li>• <b>RoboHelp</b> – 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)</li></ul>
e-Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>TechSmith Camtasia 6</b> – use for creating rapid-development “How To” training videos, mostly for our programmer audience (quick-and-dirty)</li><li>• <b>Adobe Captivate 3</b> – use for producing scripted, polished eLearning content for novice users (sales-worthy)</li><li>• <b>Sony SoundForge</b> – 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.</li></ul>
Web	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Adobe (formerly Macromedia) Dreamweaver</b> – use for designing Web content and producing SCORM manifests for eLearning content.</li><li>• <b>Learning Management System (LMS)</b> – use for managing course offerings and registrations for a large audience.</li><li>• <b>Questionmark Perception</b> – use for writing and delivering assessment questions.</li><li>• <b>WebEx Hands On Labs</b> – use for delivering the virtual classroom experience.</li></ul>
Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Google Docs!!!</b> – use to collaborate on spreadsheets and documents between Remote and on-site employees. We use this ALL THE TIME.</li><li>• <b>Yammer</b> – use for private group instant messaging service between employees</li><li>• <b>Skype</b> – use for quick conference calls (free) and to record our monthly podcasts.</li></ul>

## 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](#)<sup>1</sup> for things I'm [digging](#)<sup>2</sup>, [tweeting](#)<sup>3</sup>, [flickring](#)<sup>4</sup>, [sharing](#)<sup>5</sup>, [blogging](#)<sup>6</sup>, and [linking-in](#)<sup>7</sup>. 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>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.friendfeed.com/klisson>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.digg.com/users/klisson>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.twitter.com/klisson>

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

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

<sup>6</sup> <http://klisson.blogspot.com/>

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