



# The Insider's Guide to Technical Writing

By Krista Van Laan

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## The Insider's Guide to Technical Writing By Krista Van Laan

Every complex product needs to be explained to its users, and technical writers, also known as technical communicators, are the ones who do that job. A growing field, technical writing requires multiple skills, including an understanding of technology, writing ability, and great people skills.

Whether you're thinking of becoming a technical writer, just starting out, or you've been working for a while and feel the need to take your skills to the next level, *The Insider's Guide to Technical Writing* can help you be a successful technical writer and build a satisfying career.

### Inside the Book

- **Is This Job for Me?** What does it take to be a technical writer?
- **Building the Foundation:** What skills and tools do you need to get started?
- **The Best Laid Plans:** How do you create a schedule that won't make you go crazy? How do you manage different development processes, including Agile methodologies?
- **On the Job:** What does it take to walk into a job and be productive right away?
- **The Tech Writer Toolkit:** How do you create style guides, indexes, templates and layouts? How do you manage localization and translation and all the other non-writing parts of the job?
- **I Love My Job:** How do you handle the ups and downs of being a technical writer?
- **Appendixes:** References to websites, books, and other resources to keep you learning.
- **Index**

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

JoAnn T. Hackos is president of Comtech Services, a design consulting firm that specializes in assisting companies to understand their users, design their products and information, conduct usability tests, and manage development projects.

Janice (Ginny) C. Redish is president of Redish & Associates, Inc. Ginny helps companies with user and task analysis, usability assessments, interface and information design, and building usability into software and documentation processes.

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