

## [attw Digest] Vol. 1 No. 778 Messages 1

attw-owner@interiversity.org <attw-owner@interiversity.org>

Thu 01-Oct-15 3:20 AM

To: attw@interiversity.org <attw@interiversity.org>

ATTW Daily Digest

Volume 1 : Issue 778 : "text" Format

Messages in this Issue:

201509/40 : Re: teaching copyediting to a visually-impaired student  
Johnson, Richard D

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Date: Wed, 30 Sep 2015 14:20:06 +0000

From: "Johnson, Richard D" <rjohnso@purdue.edu>

To: "attw@interiversity.org" <attw@interiversity.org>

Subject: Re: teaching copyediting to a visually-impaired student

Message-ID: <D2316291.32680%rjohnso@purdue.edu>

George,

I will second your interest in this area. When I teach my editing course, I ask students to do most of the editorial work with Word's Review function or the Comment function of Adobe Acrobat Pro. Those are the products I use in my own editorial work and the products other editors are using. (Let's mention InDesign, too, depending on the Level of Edit).

However, when teaching proofreading, I still ask the students to edit by hand with the traditional proofreading symbols. That might be old-fashioned, but I believe proofreading is best done on paper, especially if the final document is going to be printed on paper. Errors that slip by on the screen tend to jump out when they are on paper.

(Note: Look at your local newspaper, which is probably proofread on-screen. You will see an amazing number of errors in everything from the regular text to the headlines. That wasn't true a couple decades ago when editors were still proofreading the final copy.)

Occasionally, too, applicants for editorial jobs are asked to complete a proofreading test on paper. Twenty years ago, that kind of test was simply used to determine who had the ability to work through the mechanical features of a document. Today, I wonder if it's being used to sort the students who have had a course in editing from students who haven't. Many writing and journalism students believe they can work as editors, but not many have been trained to be editors. Not knowing the symbols quickly tips off the potential employer about whether the student has been trained. (I'm just guessing here).

Of course, editing on-screen is the norm right now at all Levels of Edit. I'm still holding onto paper-based editing for proofreading.

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From: <attw-owner@interversity.org<<mailto:attw-owner@interversity.org>>> on behalf of George Hayhoe <HAYHOE\_G@mercer.edu<[mailto:HAYHOE\\_G@mercer.edu](mailto:HAYHOE_G@mercer.edu)>>  
Reply-To: "attw@interversity.org<<mailto:attw@interversity.org>>" <attw@interversity.org<<mailto:attw@interversity.org>>>  
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 at 9:37 PM  
To: "attw@interversity.org<<mailto:attw@interversity.org>>" <attw@interversity.org<<mailto:attw@interversity.org>>>  
Subject: Re: [attw] teaching copyediting to a visually-impaired student

Russell's and Terri's question remind me of one I posed to myself as I taught tech editing this past summer: Do we really need to teach students to edit hardcopy anymore? It seems as though MS Word revision tracking and commenting features have replaced editing hardcopy just about everywhere but the tech editing classroom.

Does learning to edit hardcopy teach students anything they can't learn through electronic techniques alone?

It would be interesting to study whether students exposed to the old fashioned approach become more careful or skilled than those who learn only electronic editing techniques.

—George Hayhoe

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On Sep 29, 2015, at 8:38 PM, Terri Fredrick <tfredrick@gmail.com<<mailto:tfredrick@gmail.com>>>

wrote:

I have the same situation this semester. Following...

On Tue, Sep 29, 2015 at 5:14 PM, Russell Willerton  
<russell.willerton@gmail.com<mailto:russell.willerton@gmail.com>> wrote:  
Dear colleagues,

If you have experience working with students or professionals who are blind, I would appreciate your insights.

One of my students in technical editing this semester is blind. He has screen-reading software that helps for many tasks. When I teach copyediting, I help students learn to identify and use the appropriate handwritten symbols to mark up a hard-copy manuscript.

Clearly I will need to use a different approach with my student who will work only with electronic manuscripts. And clearly, it is more important for a student to be able to identify problems in a manuscript than to mark a paper with a particular squiggle or slash. That said, if you wouldn't mind sharing what you know, I'd appreciate it. Feel free to contact me off-list at russell.willerton@gmail.com<mailto:russell.willerton@gmail.com>.

Thanks,  
Russell Willerton  
Boise State University

[Attachment of type text/html removed.]

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End of [attw Digest] Vol. 1 No. 778 Messages 1

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