

To: books@scriptorium.com

From: Carol-Ann Mitchell <cashmitch01@gmail.com>

Subject: Technical Writing 101 Review

Date: April 08, 2013

Dear Alan S. Pringle and Sarah S. O'Keefe

I am currently a college student at New York City College of Technology and am enrolled in a technical writing 101 class. A requirement of my class is to read your book called "Technical Writing 101" along with a book named "Too Big to Know" by David Weinberger. Upon reading your book I realized that your book could use some improvement based on the book Too Big to Know. In Too Big to Know Weinberger explained in detail how our concepts of knowledge are changing in the present age of the Internet. For example he mentioned, "For a long time. In 1685, French scholar Adrien Baillet wrote: "We have reason to fear that the multitude of books which grows every day in a prodigious fashion will make the following centuries fall into a state as barbarous as that of the centuries that followed the fall of the Roman Empire." (pg8) It was also mentioned in that book "...Now if you want to know something, you go online. If you want to make what you've learned widely accessible, you go online." (pg14) This was brilliantly explained with a quote on how we are entering an era of the internet as a source for information. There was no quote like these in your technical writing book to emphasize your views. Instead you vaguely mentioned things such as "Initial ignorance- or, even better, the ability to pretend ignorance- can be a valuable asset when you're writing content."(pg28) and "You don't have to be a programmer, but you do need to understand the fundamentals of programming."(pg27). These statements are very vague and don't explain much about technical writing. Don't get me wrong I find your book to be quite interesting; however it needed work to keep the reader's interested and more informed. With a little more work your book could capture the attention of not only people who desire to become technical writers but also a wider audience of readers. In my opinion I strongly believe that

you could use David Weinberger's book Too Big to Know as an example to improve the way you try to get information across and become more current and informative in the knowledge you display in your book. Please don't be offended I am simply hoping you consider reading David Weinberger's book to revise or update your Technical Writing 101 book. Thanks in advance for taking the time to consider my opinion and I wish you the best in your revision.

Regards,

Carol-Ann Mitchell

(Student at New York City College of Technology)