

Glossary

ALN Asynchronous Learning Network. Interactive projects that connect students and teachers with software that allows them to write, read, and respond to each other even when they are not online at the same time. Primarily for distance learning, ALNs are sometimes used within a classroom to engage students in highly interactive communication. Pacerforum and FirstClass, used by Gail Hawisher and Michael Pemberton at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, are examples of software that supports ALNs.

ASC Academic Skills Center. A Guilford College center that helps students develop the various skills needed to be successful in the academy. The URL for ASC's Web page is <http://www.guilford.edu/ASC/AcademicSkillsCenter.html>.

C&C *Computers and Composition: An International Journal for Teachers of Writing*. An influential journal which has shaped the field of computers and composition. Begun as a newsletter in November 1983 by Kathleen Kiefer and Cynthia Selfe, it is now a tri-annual journal edited by Gail Hawisher and Cynthia Selfe. Its primary focus is on the intersections between communication technologies, composition pedagogy, and theory.

CAC Communication Across the Curriculum. An expansion of the writing-across-the-curriculum movement that broadens the focus from written communication to all other forms of communication, including oral and visual. Although writing continues to be viewed as central to teaching and learning, it is joined in an interactive social process with other forms of communication to promote critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving within and across disciplines.

CAISE Center for Advancement in Instruction for Science and Engineering. Center located at Clarkson University which assists the development of technology projects that enhance the science and engineering curriculum. The article by Selber and Karis in this collection describes one such project—a CD-ROM engineering textbook.

CCE Center for Continuing Education. A Guilford College center that assists faculty and staff with projects (computer-mediated and otherwise) and enhances continuing education across the campus. In their article, Strickland and Whitnell describe one project developed through the CCE. The URL for the CCE's Web page is <http://www.guilford.edu/CCE/main.html>.

CIT Office of Computing and Information Technology. A Spelman College office which provides technical support for computer-mediated projects across the campus (including the project Hocks and Bascelli describe in their article).

CMC Computer-Mediated Communication. Widely used phrase introduced by Lee Sproull and Sara Kiesler (*Connections: New Ways of Working in the Networked Organization* 1991). Stressing the use of technologies to facilitate communication, CMC refers to both the variety of networking technologies that allow users to converse online—listservs, e-mail, Internet relay chat, newsgroups, and MOOs—and the kinds of interactions that occur within those online spaces. Many theorists have argued that CMC will help build new communities online that will enhance real-life communities (e.g., Jones's

Cybersociety: Computer-Mediated Communication and Community 1995) while some have argued that CMC decreases community participation (e.g., Doheny-Farina's *The Wired Neighborhood* 1996).

CSC Computer-Supported Communication. Communication (traditionally writing) that is aided by the use of computer technologies. This term is commonly used to refer to the theory of computer usage that Cynthia Selfe offers in *Creating a Computer-Supported Writing Facility: A Blueprint for Action* (1989), in which she emphasizes that students' and instructors' needs must be foregrounded and that computer technologies should be used to meet those needs, not determine them. The focus, then, is on using computers in context to assist teaching and learning writing, rather than teaching computer skills.

CWP Comprehensive Writing Program. A WAC program located at Spelman College. Begun in 1979, it serves to help faculty members across the disciplines include writing into their courses. CWP is one of many such WAC programs located at universities and colleges across the country.

CWS Center for Writing Studies. A cross-disciplinary unit (directed by Gail Hawisher) located at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. According to its brochure, the Center's "mission is to sustain a community of scholars in writing studies and to provide graduate students with opportunities to study the various practices and discourses related to written communication." Other such units have been established in universities across the country, distinguishing themselves from traditional rhetoric and composition programs by their emphasis on interdisciplinary concerns and a broader definition.

ECAC Electronic Communication Across the Curriculum. A term created by the editors (Donna Reiss, Dickie Selfe, and Art Young) to highlight the evolving intersections between the communication-across-the-curriculum movement and new information technologies. ECAC recognizes that e-mail, synchronous and asynchronous conferencing, multimedia, and the World Wide Web offer new modes of communication to construct and enhance learning within and across disciplines.

HTML Hypertext Markup Language. HTML codes tell an Internet browser (such as Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Explorer) how to display a Web document, but each browser will interpret the HTML commands in different ways and will thus display the document in slightly different formats.

IT Information Technology. Computer technologies designed to facilitate the production and distribution of information across time and distance. These technologies include word processing and e-mail programs, synchronous and asynchronous networks, World Wide Web publishing tools and browsers. Serving to connect people and information, ITs can be used to promote interactions and provide the technological structure for people to share information and ideas.

MOO Multi-user dimension, Object Oriented Environment. Interactive, synchronous virtual environment that allows users to move around virtual rooms/spaces and converse with other users who are virtual inhabitants of the rooms. Unlike MUDs (multi-user dimensions), which were games that dictate participants' paths and usages, MOOs are constantly changing arenas that allow users to create their own virtual spaces and to decide what will happen in those spaces. MOOs encourage users to be creators of the environment, not simply participants in it.

OWL Online Writing Lab. Writing assistance that is mediated by computer technologies. Information technologies are used in various ways to help tutor writing: tutor and learner can meet face-to-face but use the technology to help them search for sources and revise text; students can e-mail writing-related questions to the writing lab tutors and receive a response via e-mail; listservs can be set up to facilitate real-time conferencing

about a writing project, and writing labs can establish a database of handouts and suggestions that can be posted online for users to draw upon when they have questions. OWLs do not necessarily imply that tutor and learner never meet face-to-face; instead they highlight the usage of technologies to assist the work of the writing lab.

SGML Standard General Markup Language. A standard computer language that can be translated by all Internet browsers. Because it allows all users to access material posted on the Web (no matter what formatting system used), SGML makes the Web possible. Before SGML, individual computer systems had a difficult time "talking" with one another because they spoke different computer languages. Similar to ASCII (a universal computer language), SGML allows cross-platform computer communication, but unlike ASCII, SGML is hypertextual.

TLTR Teaching, Learning, Technology Roundtable. A project initiated by Steve Gilbert and funded through the American Association of Higher Education (AAHE). At the heart of the project are seminars and workshops led by Gilbert that help participants learn to use information technologies across the disciplines. The project stresses a learner-centered focus which builds a collaborative atmosphere between teacher and learner, an atmosphere that is then enhanced by computer technologies.

URL Uniform Resource Locator. Formally called Universal Resource Locator, a URL is the Internet address of a Web page or file. When using Netscape (a popular Internet browser), the URL is listed in the box labeled "Location" and begins with "http://" and is followed by the address. URLs can be used to locate specific files on the Internet and are used in the citation of those files in articles.

WAC Writing Across the Curriculum. A recent educational movement that views writing at the center of the academic experience in all disciplines. Writing is used as a tool for learning as well as for communication. Two basic arguments sustain WAC programs: (1) writing helps students learn disciplinary content, and (2) writing is integrally linked to the field in which one writes. Therefore, writing should be a component of all college classes, rather than being isolated to composition courses in English departments.

WOW Writers' Online Workshop. An online assistance service offered by the Writers' Workshop at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Users can e-mail short, writing-related questions to WOW, and they will receive responses from consultants at the Workshop in a short period of time. The address is wow@uiuc.edu.

WWW World Wide Web. A hypertext-based communication system which connects individual Web pages and maps out the pathways for browsers so that they can find the information they need, information that is located on various computers and servers around the world.