# Text at Scale Corpus Analysis in Technical Communication

Stephen Carradini and Jason Swarts



Foundations and Innovations in Technical and Professional Communication

## **TEXT AT SCALE**

# CORPUS ANALYSIS IN TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

## Foundations and Innovations in Technical and Professional Communication

Series Editor: Lisa Melonçon

Series Associate Editor: Sherena Huntsman

The Foundations and Innovations in Technical and Professional Communication series publishes work that is necessary as a base for the field of technical and professional communication (TPC), addresses areas of central importance within the field, and engages with innovative ideas and approaches to TPC. The series focuses on presenting the intersection of theory and application/practice within TPC and is intended to include both monographs and co-authored works, edited collections, digitally enhanced work, and innovative works that may not fit traditional formats (such as works that are longer than a journal article but shorter than a book).

The WAC Clearinghouse and University Press of Colorado are collaborating so that these books will be widely available through free digital distribution and low-cost print editions. The publishers and the series editors are committed to the principle that knowledge should freely circulate and have embraced the use of technology to support open access to scholarly work.

#### Other Books in the Series

Han Yu and Jonathan Buehl (Eds.), Keywords in Technical and Professional Communication (2023)

Jason C. K. Tham (Ed.), Keywords in Design Thinking: A Lexical Primer for Technical Communicators & Designers (2022)

Kate Crane and Kelli Cargile Cook (Eds.), *User Experience as Innovative Academic Practice* (2022)

Joanna Schreiber and Lisa Melonçon (Eds.), Assembling Critical Components: A Framework for Sustaining Technical and Professional Communication (2022)

Michael J. Klein (Ed.), Effective Teaching of Technical Communication: Theory, Practice, and Application (2021).

## **TEXT AT SCALE**

# CORPUS ANALYSIS IN TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

By Stephen Carradini and Jason Swarts

The WAC Clearinghouse wac.colostate.edu Fort Collins, Colorado

University Press of Colorado upcolorado.com Denver, Colorado The WAC Clearinghouse, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

University Press of Colorado, Denver, Colorado 80202

© 2023 by Stephen Carradini and Jason Swarts. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International.

ISBN 978-1-64215-210-4 (PDF) | 978-1-64215-211-1 (ePub) | 978-1-64642-607-2 (pbk.)

DOI 10.37514/TPC-B.2023.2104

Produced in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Carradini, Stephen, 1988- author. | Swarts, Jason, 1972- author.

Title: Text at scale: corpus analysis in technical communication / Stephen Carradini, Jason Swarts.

Description: Fort Colins, Colorado; Denver, Colorado: The WAC Clearinghouse; University Press of Colorado, [2023] | Series: Foundations and innovations in technical and professional communication | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2023042204 (print) | LCCN 2023042205 (ebook) | ISBN 9781646426072 (paperback) | ISBN 9781642152104 (adobe pdf) | ISBN 9781642152111 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Communication of technical information--Language. | Corpora (Linguistics) | English language--Discourse analysis.

Classification: LCC Tro.5 .C36 2023 (print) | LCC Tro.5 (ebook) | DDC 601/.4--dc23/eng/20240302

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2023042204

LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2023042205

Copyeditor: Don Donahue Designer: Mike Palmquist Series Editor: Lisa Melonçon

Series Associate Editor: Sherena Huntsman

The WAC Clearinghouse supports teachers of writing across the disciplines. Hosted by Colorado State University, it brings together scholarly journals and book series as well as resources for teachers who use writing in their courses. This book is available in digital formats for free download at wac.colostate.edu.

Founded in 1965, the University Press of Colorado is a nonprofit cooperative publishing enterprise supported, in part, by Adams State University, Colorado State University, Fort Lewis College, Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Colorado, University of Denver, University of Northern Colorado, University of Wyoming, Utah State University, and Western Colorado University. For more information, visit upcolorado.com.

**Land Acknowledgment.** The Colorado State University Land Acknowledgment can be found at https://landacknowledgment.colostate.edu.

### ■ Contents

Acknowledgmentsvii
1. The Scale of Work in Technical Communication
2. Assumptions, Approaches, and Techniques of Corpus Analysis
3. Developing Questions
4. Building a Corpus
5. Analyzing a Corpus
6. Writing the Results
7. The Future of Corpus Analysis and Technical Communication
References
Glossary