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“Who Should Be the Desktop Publisher.” *STC Intercom.* 34:5 (December 1988), pp. 1, 4.


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realize the value, in terms of communication impact, of presentation hardware and software. It is becoming more common for speakers with projection screens to access remote databased archives of pictures and text, sometimes interactively during question-and-answer periods.

Even the higher levels of academic writing will feel the pressure to reexamine its sometimes minimalist preference for bloodless prose. As academic software writers become more sensitive to human factors in design theory, they will restore a creative balance between instruction and delight. PostScript and other page description languages have already a firm hold in humanities disciplines, and more faculty will explore the control and research potential which programming and advanced software applications permit.

The advancing sophistication of hardware platforms and software methods will tend to outstrip the budgets of individuals and many small departments. Networking will extend its range within and between institutions, and faculty won’t miss the opportunity to adapt traditional practices in the teaching of writing. Group writing and resource sharing, for example, will be experimented with further.

Overall, the 1990s will find humanists incorporating more and more from other disciplines, from art and typography to science and engineering. The need to keep pace with hardware and software developments will continue to complicate the lives of faculty. For a short time after the impact of the printing press, the total number of printed books was manageable and finite, so that individuals like Thomas More and Erasmus could seemingly hold all knowledge in their private libraries. Many computer-using academics during the 1980s were similarly able to keep up with the often shifting advances in hardware and software, but the complexities and sheer volume of computer applications during the next decade may eventually force a return to the narrower attention of the specialist.

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