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The Concept of Technical Communication Challenges of Interdisciplinarity

Technical communication is an interdisciplinary field of study. It has ties to other fields such as rhetoric, linguistics, graphic design, organizational communication, engineering, psychology, and computer science. Because of this close relationship to other fields, the concept of technical communication is difficult to define (see for example Spilka 2002: 103). Some feel that attempts to define technical communication is impossible, others agree on searching for a broad definition (see for example Jones 1996).

This paper discusses the different ways of approaching the concept of technical communication. The interdisciplinary nature of the field is taken into consideration by using a corpus that consists of definitions of the concept of technical communication used in different fields.

Jones, Dan (1996). *Defining Technical Communication*. Arlington: Society for Technical Communication.

Spilka, Rachel (2002). Becoming a Profession. In: *Reshaping Technical Communication. New Directions and Challenges for the 21st Century*, 97—109. Eds. Barbara Mirel & Rachel Spilka. Mahwah, New Jersey, London: Lawrence Elbaum Associates.