

Resume

Colin Roberts

Colin Roberts has been an information specialist for over 20 years. He has worked in a variety of industries as an information architect, technical communicator and Web application developer. Colin's strong communication skills and significant experience in information design and markup technologies complemented by his exposure to application development technologies enable him to provide first-class information solutions. Colin maintains his skills and knowledge by attending training courses and industry conferences on relevant industry subjects.

Information Architecture

09/2005 to 12/2009: Various Western Australian government agencies

Department of Education

Department of Training and Workforce Development

Developing the information standards and strategies for the implementation of an enterprise content management system to host over 200 websites.

The CMS was an open-source framework customised to support a standards-based, multi-tiered architecture. The content management framework was designed to facilitate content publishing by the subject experts rather than dedicated web developers; to support efficient information discovery for end-users through navigation, aggregation and search, and to enable interoperability with other State Government websites and websites in the education and training domain. My role included applying best practices and industry standard approaches to analyse the enterprise information requirements, define scalable solutions and ensure overall compatibility with the State Government's interoperability framework.

Implementing and promoting controlled-vocabulary classification schemes and XML schemas to define content structures. Developing XML-based processes for information delivery solutions using VB, XML, XSL-T and XSL-FO.

Web Application Development

02/1996 to present: Various Clients in Australia (not all listed for space reasons)

National eDAIS Coordination Office - 2010

Jesters Pies - 2005

ADI Limited - 2002 to 2004

BGC Pty Ltd (and its subsidiaries) - ongoing since 1998

Working independently on many projects as well as part of a team on others. Analysing user and site workflow requirements. Implementing graphic designs into fully functional, dynamic and interactive Web sites using ASP, JSP and client-side scripting (JavaScript). Sophisticated interactive features included context sensitive behaviours, navigation, orientation and client-side form validation.

I have a sound understanding of the current and emerging Web technologies, and the quirks between browsers in CSS and scripting support. This knowledge enables me to implement standards-compliant and cross-browser compatible Web content using streamlined modular code.

As the website administrator for the eDAIS project In 2010, I maintained the Liferay Portal (v5.2) which serves as the platform for the National eDAIS Conformance Test Harness, the eDAIS Community website, web forums and the individual subsites of the community members.

My technical communication skills equip me to deliver high-quality copy for web content using prose to suit the circumstances (e.g. marketing, technical, etc.).

Technical Communication

01/1991 to present: Various Companies (Europe in parentheses)

National eDAIS Coordination Office - 2010

Department of Education - 2005

ADI Limited - 1994 to 2004

Datacraft - 1993 to 1994

Hawker Noyes - 1992

Fokker Aircraft B.V. (Holland) - 1991

Rolls Royce Aero Engines (UK) - 1991

Writing software user and system administration manuals for systems developed in a variety of languages especially Java. Researching information by reviewing JavaDoc and the source code, design specifications, and interviewing developers.

I was the documentation specialist on the *Our Policies* project at the Department of Education. In this role I developed an MS Word-based document template solution to support the creation of the Department's policies, which included VBA-based export feature to integrate with the CMS for subsequent online publishing.

As the Lead Information Developer at ADI Limited, I developed document DTDs, XML schemas, style specifications and layout design templates. I also defined the standards to enable the efficient publication of content in a variety of formats such as SGML, XML, HTML and PDF.

During this time I was the principal designer and developer of the online Help system that supports the Department of Transport's licensing system, TRELIS—launched in early July 2004—and designed and developed several other information systems for ADI's other development projects (mainly for the Australian Commonwealth).

From 1995, I coordinated the development and implementation of the SGML capability within the Technical Publications department at ADI.

I designed the production processes for the effective publication of online content, especially using the JavaHelp technology, which included working closely with Java developers to achieve integrated, context-sensitive application Help content.

During 1997, I was employed as the documentation expert on a DOLA (now Landgate) project called SmartPlan. I developed a suite of MS Word templates to automate the creation of the system specifications. These templates were integrated with the developers' design tools to produce fully formatted data-model design documents using SQL queries and formatting the results.

Writing aircraft maintenance manuals and related documents to support aerospace and mining equipment. Creating content using standards such as ATA 2100, S1000D and AECMA Simplified English.

Aircraft Engineering

10/1976 – 12/1990: Royal Air Force (UK)

Position: Aircraft Engineering Technician

Maintaining, testing and repairing aircraft airframe and engine systems. My career included a three-year technical apprenticeship and a related tertiary qualification.

After 12 years, I attained the rank of Sergeant and was responsible for the management of four engineers maintaining Tornado aircraft.

Achievements

Won certificates of merit in two categories of the annual competition run by the Australian Society of Technical Communicators (2005). The categories were technical manual and online Help.

Won the Business Process Improvement award at ADI in the second quarter of 1999. This award was presented for my implementation of a single source publishing process for hard-copy documents and online Help systems.

While at Hawker Noyes (1992), I was instrumental in saving \$30,000 per year in engineering rework by improving the quality of technical documentation and increasing the exposure of newly released information.

General Interests

Colin enjoys playing squash and soccer; scuba diving and DIY

Referees

Phil Davis, Director, Systemic Pty Ltd. (Tel: 0414 400 313)

Colin has worked with and for Phil since 1996 In various companies. Colin joined Systemic in 2001.

Stuart Macnish, National eDAIS Coordinator, Protegic Pty Ltd. (Tel: 0438 249 211)

Colin worked for Stuart on the electronic Development Assessment Interoperability Specification project in 2010.

Technical Skills Summary

Languages

Scripting and Web application development (JavaScript, VBA, ASP) - 10 years
Markup technologies (SGML, XML, XML schema, etc.) - 19 years
Presentation and transformation technologies (PDF, CSS, XSL-T, XSL-FO) - 14 years
Application development (some VB.NET and Java) - 10 years (exposure but not active developing)

Document and Web Publishing Tools

Document development (Adobe FrameMaker, MS Word, OpenOffice, Adobe Acrobat) - 20 years
Vector graphics (CorelDraw, Adobe Illustrator, Inkscape) - 14 years
Raster graphics (Adobe Photoshop, GIMP) - 14 years
Office graphics (MS PowerPoint, MS Visio) - 14 years
Web content (Macromedia DreamWeaver, XML Spy) - 8 years
Web graphics and multimedia (Adobe Flash) - 2 years

Online Help Development Tools and Technologies

WebWorks ePublisher Pro (for FrameMaker and MS Word) - 16 years
JavaHelp - 6 years
HTML Help - 12 years

Project Tools and Methodologies

Issue tracking (JIRA, TRAC, Mantis) - 5 years
Configuration management (CVS and Subversion) - 8 years
Methodologies (Waterfall, Scrum, Agile) - 15 years
UML Modelling (Enterprise Architect) - 1 year

General

MS Office Suite (MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, MS Access) - 20 years

Training History

Information and Communication Technology

Liferay Portal Administrator (Permeance Technologies) - 2010
DefDoc (ADG) - 2005
Java Programming (two courses) (Clifton & Associates) - 2003
Mastering Visual Basic (two courses) (AlphaWest) - 2000
SGML/XML Asia Pacific (Allette Systems) - 1998 and 1999
Comprehensive SGML (Exoterica) - 1995
Data Communications, LAN and WAN (two courses) (A&B Schwartz) - 1994

Technical Communication

Technical Writing (University of Canberra) - 1993
Simplified English (Fokker Aircraft B.V.) - 1991

Engineering and Management

NEBSS Certificate in Supervisory Management (Royal Air Force) - 1987
Ordinary National Certificate in Aeronautical Engineering (Royal Air Force) - 1976