

Hello, my name is Elkie Burnside and I am very excited to be participating in the first issue of Showcasing the Best of CWIC and DMAC. Of course my project here deals with what I learned at DMAC and how it directly impacted my life. My focus in this piece centers around the work I did as a graduate student, well first as a graduate student and then as a graduate, working both part-time and full-time at Fire Protection Publications, which is located in Stillwater, Oklahoma at Oklahoma State University. Looking back now I see how fortunate I was to find a position that would allow me to combine my interest in rhetoric, technical writing, and multimodal composing all at once. I think in the moment, I wasn't really aware of how interesting and unique that was, but I am very excited that I had that experience. As I started to think about what DMAC meant to me and what I learned from DMAC and how it really impacted my work, I started to look at how the project I was working on at Fire Protection Publications, the ideas that we talked about at DMAC looking at how composition and video and audio and all these different things worked together – that intersection between my academic studies, the professional endeavors I was pursuing at FPP, and the lessons I brought home from my trip to Columbus, it was really interesting to look at how these pieces put together and what I learned most from that.

So this blog is a re-creation of my experience seeking funding for, attending, and applying concepts learned at DMAC when I attended in 2011. My intention with the piece is to share my journey as a professional writer working with digital multimodal technology for content delivery in a technical training environment. As you read more I think you will understand a little bit more about that. I chose the format of a blog to allow for my main narrative and the different multimodal artifacts created in the process to reside in the same space. My desire in sharing this glimpse into my experience is to help show others how principles of accessibility and digital rhetorical design that are emphasized at DMAC can reach into application outside of the classroom and work, hopefully work toward breaking down the academic-theory versus industry-practice divide that seems to occur, not at DMAC, but in other theoretical places. Thank you for your time and I hope you enjoy the project!