Call for Papers

Special Issue of *Computers and Composition*
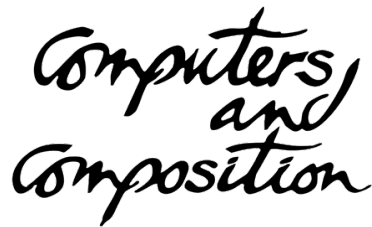
Computers and Composition (logo)

40 Years of Composing with Computers: Where Have We Come From? Where are We Going?

Issue Editors:
Naomi Silver, University of Michigan
Jason Tham, Texas Tech University
Zhaozhe Wang, University of Toronto

Overview

As *Computers and Composition* celebrates its 40th anniversary milestone, we invite scholars to contribute to a special commemorative issue examining the evolution and future of computer-mediated composition. Since the journal's founding in 1983, we have witnessed transformative changes in how technology shapes writing practices, pedagogies, and theories. From early word processors to contemporary AI writing assistants, the relationship between computation and composition has continually evolved, prompting ongoing reconsiderations of what it means to write, to teach writing, and to study writing in digitally mediated environments.

This special issue seeks contributions that both historicize our field's engagement with technology and envision its future trajectories. We welcome work that critically examines the promises, challenges, and complications that have emerged over four decades of composing with computers, as well as scholarship that imagines what the next generation of computer-mediated composition might entail—both within and beyond the academy, including professional and public domains.

Potential Topics

Submissions may address, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- **Histories**: How have digital writing technologies evolved over the past 40 years, and how has scholarship in *Computers and Composition* documented and shaped this evolution?
- **Pedagogies**: How have computers transformed writing instruction since the 1980s? What enduring principles have emerged, and what approaches have been reconsidered?
- **Theories**: How have theoretical approaches to understanding computer-mediated writing evolved? What new frameworks are emerging to conceptualize digital composing? How have digital writing technologies influenced the embodied experience of composing?
- **Progress**: How have issues of access, equity, and inclusion been addressed throughout the history of computers and composition? What progress has been made, and what challenges remain?
- **Multimodality**: How have computers expanded conceptions of composition beyond alphabetic text? How might emerging technologies further transform multimodal practices?
- **Culture**: How have computers and composition been conceptualized across different cultural and linguistic contexts?
- **Literacies**: How have definitions and approaches to digital literacy evolved? What new literacies are emerging or needed?
- **Institutions**: How have writing programs, departments, and institutions responded to technological change? What administrative challenges and opportunities have emerged?

Submission Guidelines

We welcome a variety of submission formats, including:

- Research articles (6,000-8,000 words)
- Historical analyses (6,000-8,000 words)
- Interviews with pioneering scholars in the field (3,000-5,000 words)

All submissions should follow the journal's standard formatting guidelines and citation style (APA 7th edition). Authors should prepare manuscripts for anonymized peer review.

Multimodal submissions should be accessible for a print format and include appropriate alternative text for images and transcripts for audio/video content.

Important Dates

- **Abstracts due**: August 1, 2025 (500-750 words)
- **Notification of abstract acceptance**: August 15, 2025
- **Full manuscripts due**: November 1, 2025
- **Peer review decisions**: December 15, 2025
- **Revised manuscripts due**: February 15, 2026
- **Publication date**: March 2026

Submission Process

Please submit abstracts to Jason Tham (jason.tham@ttu.edu), Zhaozhe Wang (zhaozhe.wang@utoronto.ca), and Naomi Silver (nesilver@umich.edu) with the subject line "**C&C Anniversary Special Issue: [Your Last Name].**"

For more information about *Computers and Composition*, please visit: https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/computers-and-composition