

Biographies

Draft. Updated September 4, 2008. When I'm happy with these, I'll make 'em a web page.

Very short biography: formal

Bradley Dilger is an associate professor of English at Western Illinois University. His research focuses on standards-based writing, web accessibility, and the role of ease in technology.

Very short biography: informal

I'm a father, writer, runner, hacker, and brewer. And I'm a professor of English who studies software, writing, media, and networks.

Long professional biography

Bradley Dilger (PhD, U of Florida, 2003) is an associate professor of English at Western Illinois University, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in writing studies, new media, and technical communication.

Bradley's research area is software studies, the emerging field which investigates the roles software plays in language and culture. His research focuses on four areas: (1) public standards like the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, and the role they can and should play in technical communication and English studies as a whole; (2) web accessibility, the art and craft of ensuring that web-based writing and media are available for everyone, including users of less powerful technologies (e. g. mobile phones, netbooks) or assistive technologies (e. g. non-mouse input devices, screen readers); (3) the role of ease in technology, from the teaching of writing to formative concepts such as usability. Bradley has essays published in multiple edited collections and has an edited collection under review at a major academic press. His essay "Web 2.0 Style" will be published in an forthcoming issue of *Computers & Composition*, and he has several essays and reviews under consideration by other academic journals.

Bradley serves on the Department of English & Journalism's executive committee and graduate committee. He was instrumental in the recent program revision of the Graduate Program in English, creating new courses and designing the new curriculum, which now includes a capstone experience for all students. Bradley is currently working with Mark Mossman, Director of Graduate Studies in English, to build assessment structures, help current students transition to the new curriculum, and evaluate the success of new program components such as the replacement of tracking with individualized programs of study.

Until recently, Bradley served as department technology coordinator, setting policy for English & Journalism's substantial technology needs, coordinating support, and working with college and university administrators to secure resources. Under his watch, department technology resources have expanded considerably, the usability and stability of department electronic and computer classrooms has been greatly improved, and the department has cut its costs while offering faculty more instructional resources, through effective use of networked printing and shared equipment.

As an active member of university committees and task forces which shape technology policies,

Bradley advocates user-centered technology and substantial faculty involvement in the creation and application of technology infrastructure. Western technology administrators and support staff frequently consult with him regarding usability, end user support policy, and distance education. In 2007, Bradley won university awards for his work with web accessibility and for teaching with technology.

On Western's web accessibility committee, Bradley has continually advocated dedicated resources and a more proactive attitude towards complying with web accessibility standards—notably, now required by the Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Act (IITAA). In the 2008-09 academic year, Bradley is working as an administrative intern to help Western satisfy the requirements of the IITAA, focusing on faculty use of information technology in courses.

Erin Easterling and Bradley have a three-year old daughter, Madelyn, and a second daughter will join their family very soon. An avid runner and homebrewer, Bradley weblogs at <http://wrecking.org/cbd/>.