

Mark Allen

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My life's work has been in building community through shared information. As a communication professional, I focus on helping people exchange knowledge with clarity and honesty. I am a collaborator and team leader with expertise in marketing, design, publishing and project development. I understand readers' wants and needs, and I know how to meet those wants and needs using multiple avenues and platforms.

Projects and clients for Mark Allen Editorial (ongoing or in the past 10 years)

MIT Horizon: Subscription library of articles on emerging tech written for a nonexpert audience

Nationwide Financial Retirement Plans: In-house and remote consultant on business-to-business, business-to-consumer and crisis communications

American Journalism Project: Announcements, board reports, grant applications and related materials

Keck Medicine of USC: In-house magazine and one-pagers for university hospital system

Virtual Laboratory School, the Ohio State University: Early-childhood education website for the Department of Defense

University of Kansas: Higher Learning Commission accreditation self-study

National University, California: Multiple accreditation self-studies

Columbus State Community College: Accreditation self-studies

National Endowment for the Humanities: Humanities magazine and other projects

Manifest LLC: Content for an eclectic group of clients, including university hospital websites, hospital in-house magazines, travel publications, and entertainment and technology magazines

UMass Transportation Center: White papers on transportation technology

College of Pharmacy, the Ohio State University: Writer of institutional history book

International Center for Transitional Justice: Report on legacies of sexual violence in Uganda

The Committee for Economic Development of the Conference Board: Report on business support for educational achievement

Harvard Education Press: Scholarly books on education

FiveThirtyEight.com: News website focused on data journalism with a high degree of fact-checking, math and data analysis

Cities of Service: Website stories for nonprofit focused on helping cities employ citizen talent

Discover Education: Online textbooks for British Columbia grade schools

Equity Methods: Online articles and white papers for equity compensation advisory firm

Trilogy Education Services: Curriculum materials for university-affiliated technology boot camps

The United Nations: Book to accompany a symposium on the status of the death penalty

Newspaper journalism experience

The Columbus Dispatch, Columbus, Ohio (2005 to 2009): Copy editor. Editing and headlines for A-section, metro section and business pages, business liaison in charge of business-page production, wire editor, late-night editor. Wrote early copy-desk guide to posting to the web.

The Grand Rapids Press, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1995 to 2005)

Sunday editor: Responsible for story selection, editing and page layout; worked with advertising and production staffs; supervised four-person Saturday copy-desk crew. Lead copy editor on six zoned weekly community editions: Implemented redesign and moved zoned editions to full pagination; supervised three-person zone copy desk crew. Served three-month stints in editorial and features departments and as an assistant metro editor. Frequent sports and business desk shifts.

The Mining Journal, Marquette, Michigan (1988 to 1995): Copy editor, weekend wire editor, features writer, education reporter, bureau reporter.

The Gratiot County Herald, Ithaca, Michigan (1988): Editor. Implemented pagination system.
CM LIFE, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan (1985 to 1987): Various positions including managing editor at nationally recognized college newspaper.

Teaching and community-building

Intermediate course on editing data, Poynter Institute for Media Studies (2024)
University of California at San Diego Extension (2012 to 2020): Instructor for capstone course in copy-editing certificate program.
The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio (2006): Lecturer. Taught newly restructured editing course. Creator and host of *That Word Chat*, a live chat show about all things lexical, with 80 shows, dozens of patrons, international audience of up to 100 per show, and thousands of YouTube views. Social media accounts (@EditorMark) peaking at more than 18,000 followers.
Blogger, writing about issues of editing, usage and style for Copyediting, ACES: The Society for Editing, Grammar Girl, Ragan, National Association of Independent Writers and Editors.

Select presentations

The Editor's Library: Essential tools for bookshelf and browser, Editors Canada conference (online), 2021
Edit Sober: Tips for Better Editing, annual conferences of ACES: The Society for Editing in 2018 and 2019.
The Latest in Style: Updates to AP, CMOS and More (or similar titles), webinars for the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, ACES: The Society for Editing, Mark Allen Editorial LLC, and National Association of Independent Writers and Editors (2019 and 2020).
Mnemonicize Your Word Choices, 20 slides, 20 seconds each, 2016 ACES national conference, Portland.
Copy Editing: The Basic and the Persnickety, for the American Society of Business Publication Editors, July 22, 2016, St. Petersburg, Florida.
Style and editing presentation for Allstate Insurance, July 2015.
Freelancer's Forum, organizer and panelist: ACES 2011, 2012 and 2013 national conferences; panelist 2014.
ACES regional workshops, co-presenter: St. Louis, 2013, Las Vegas, 2014, Detroit, 2014 and 2016, Columbus, 2015 (organizer).
Editing workshop for Kappa Kappa Gamma national women's fraternity editorial team, August 2013.
Expanding our Editorial Skills, panelist: Society for Editors and Proofreaders National Conference, York, England, September 2012.
Weathering the Publishing Storm, copyediting in the digital age: Copyediting Newsletter audio conference, May 2012.
Become a Numbers Person: Copyediting Newsletter audio conference, February 2011.

Education

Central Michigan University, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Graduate credits in the humanities, 1996-1997
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan: Graduate credits in history, 1996
Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan: Graduate credits in history, 1991-1993
Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan: bachelor's degree in journalism, December 1987

Professional affiliations

ACES: The Society for Editing, Editorial Freelancers Association, Association of Earth Science Editors, Bexley Area Chamber of Commerce, Columbus Metropolitan Club.

Select volunteer work

ACES: The Society for Editing, executive board, 2012 to present (first freelancer elected to board).
President-elect, 2024-2025. Coordinated 2017 national conference in St. Petersburg, Florida. Founding member of Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Advocacy Committee. Scholarships judge.
Evaluator for Michigan Associated Press annual member report, 2000-2002. Headed state team in 2000 and special projects team in 2001.
Grand Rapids Area Council for the Humanities (secretary).