MacMillan Rep Visits With Professional Writing Club

On March 1, Dean Miller of MacMillan Publishing came to speak at the Professional Writing Club's meeting. MacMillan is a publishing business based in Indianapolis and is the leader in publishing Internet software, as well as being the world's largest computer book publisher.

Miller works publishing the Sams Computer book series that is a division of MacMillan Publishing. He explained several editing positions, such as copy, acquisition, and development/research, at MacMillan and described some of the software used within these positions.

Miller entered MacMillan as a copy editor, taking scripts and checking to be sure that the language was understandable and that the grammar was correct. If a book was split between several authors, a copy editor would also make sure that there was a continuity throughout the book. At MacMillan, most editors perform these tasks using Microsoft Word. It is beneficial for the editor to be current and familiar with the technology the book discusses.

An acquisition editor is the editor that works directly with the author of a manuscript, negotiating contracts and setting up schedules. Miller pointed out that acquisition editors need to be very outgoing and able to work with a variety of individuals.

Dean Miller of MacMillan Publishing talks to Professional Writing students about job opportunities in editing.

The development/research editor proofreads the text to make sure it is readable and to see if pictures and/or diagrams are needed to make the text more easily understood. Often times several experts will write a book, and it is the editor's job to make sure everything is accurate and flows. These editors have a very static position because new computer technologies are developed daily and software becomes archaic just as quickly. They must remain current on all computer technologies in order to ensure the survival of the company.

The Ink Blot

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