
Biographical Sketch

Laura Bennett, M.Sc.

Current Position: Instructional Designer

Education: M.Sc., Zoology, University of Maryland, College Park

Laura Bennett has worked for Human Technology (HT) for the past 9 years. During this time, she has been responsible for the design and development of hundreds of hours of instructional materials in both electronic and print media. Ms. Bennett is experienced in the design and development of classroom and web-based training.

Prior to joining HT, Ms. Bennett worked for a software company developing natural language search technology. Other previous work experience includes serving as part of a team troubleshooting hardware errors at an Internet service provider, and writing and publishing articles for an e-commerce web-based knowledge center.

Recent Experience

- Developed the following online independent study courses for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):
 - IS-101: Deployment Basics
 - IS-107: FEMA Travel Rules and Regulations
 - IS-235: Coordinating Environmental and Historic Preservation Compliance
 - IS-293: Mission Assignment Overview
 - IS-803: Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3 – Public Works and Engineering
 - IS-804: Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4 – Firefighting
 - IS-808: Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 – Public Health and Medical Services
 - IS-811: Emergency Support Functions (ESF) #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Updated and converted 15 online courses on food safety for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for international audiences in Canada, China, and South America. These courses covered a range of topics, including:
 - Foodborne bacteria, viruses, and parasites
 - Thermal processing
 - Pasteurization
 - Good manufacturing processes
- For the Department of State, Office of Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA), revised classroom training on major case management and emergency management exercise design, and conducted an independent evaluation of the ATA Investigative Information Management course in Indonesia.
- Developed classroom training and accompanying reference guides for the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fire Administration on ESF #4 – Firefighting.
- Revised and updated a series of classroom courses for FEMA on mission assignment processing for different target audiences, including FEMA managers, FEMA financial staff, and personnel from other Federal agencies.
- Designed and developed a web-based resource center and PowerPoint presentations for FEMA regional coordinators on the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. The materials provided information on earthquakes, earthquake hazards and risks, and ways to reduce the risk of earthquake damage.

Recent Experience (Continued)

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- Developed classroom training for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to unify the curriculum taught at the two canine training facilities operated by CBP. One canine team, upon graduating from the course, made a successful controlled substance seizure on their first day of field deployment.
- Developed classroom training on antiterrorism awareness for different disciplines within CBP, including passenger processing officers, cargo processing teams, agriculture specialists, and import specialists.
- Developed and updated classroom training for CBP on passenger analysis and targeting at land, air, and sea ports of entry.
- Developed a series of CD-based and classroom courses to cross-train CBP Officers to process passengers and cargo in land, sea, and airport environments. With the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, thousands of employees from existing agencies had to be retrained to address the requirements of the new Department. These courses included:
 - Customs Fundamentals
 - Immigration Fundamentals
 - Immigration Law Review
 - Unified Immigration
 - Cargo/Trade—Air
 - Cargo/Trade—Land
 - Cargo/Trade—Sea
 - Vessel Entrance and Clearance