

Printing Notes

Choice of printer

Image quality

Choice of paper

Choice of inks

Creativity

Purpose

1.Choosing a printer

Ink jet printers are reasonably priced e.g. Hewlett Packard, Canon, Epson, Lexmark

Photo Printers have additional features e.g.

- ability to insert a memory card

- borderless printing

- white borders

- postcard prints

- double sided printing

- editing software: rotate, crop, flip, remove red eye, enhance resolution

Dpi – reflects quality of print the printer will be capable of 300-1200

Maximum number of sheets which can be loaded

Pages per minute. Varies for b/w or colour. Rarely correct

Ink cost – number of cartridges. High capacity/Photo cartridges. Availability?

All in one – Scanner. Aim for 2400 x 4800 dpi for enlarging scanned photographs

Prepare the printer.

Use current drivers. Check on the web site for current updates.

Configure the print quality setting. Draft/Normal/Best.

Set the print quality to the highest possible. The higher the dpi the better the print.

Print a page a week.

2. Image quality

Maximise the image quality as much as possible. The higher the resolution, the better the image clarity and detail.

Increase the resolution on the camera. Use a high resolution for a large print, a low resolution for small prints, labels, emailing.

Low resolution: wallet size 6cm x 9cm or album size 10 x 15

Medium resolution: Calendars and greetings cards or 15 x 20 print

High resolution: 20 x 25cm prints or small posters 28 x 36

BUT less photos on the card if resolution is high.

Read the camera manual to find out how to change the resolution.

Choose the correct file format.

JPEG format which compresses image data is suitable for sending pictures in an email or putting on the web.

TIFF files are better for printing producing a smoother, crisper image.

Use photo editing software to remove blemishes, adjust lighting, remove red-eye etc. At the simplest level use the FIX facility in Windows Photo Gallery to crop, adjust the colour, exposure, remove red eye or crop.

3. Choice of paper

Choose appropriate paper (and the correct print setting for the paper)

Photo paper: glossy, matte, every-day.

Paper size

NB Store in a cool, dry place which does not receive direct sunlight. Do not overstock.

4. Choice of inks

Use good quality inks.

Some printers use a specific photographic ink.

Link paper and ink brands – differences in resistance to water, smudging, age and fading.

Don't use refill inks – poor coverage, fading, can block print heads and invalidate guarantee.

Use the printer alignment, colour calibration programmes that come with your printer

5. Being creative.

Adding frames/borders.

HP Printing projects on the web.

<http://welcome.hp.com/country/us/en/welcome.html>

Choose the Activity Centre.

Free downloadable frames to use with Photoshop Elements

<http://graphicssoft.about.com/od/freedownloads/l/blframesmain.htm>

Printing several pictures on one page.

Using Windows Photo Gallery choose PRINT. You can easily select more than photo and arrange them in different lay-outs e.g. 2,4,9 or 35. Or using Word you can cut and paste photographs into an arrangement.

Using Word you could add text too.

Making a montage

Adding text

6. Purpose

Albums

Framed

Cards – Birthday, Christmas

Post cards

Calendars

Fabric transfers

See

Epson Creative Zone for more printing projects – Search on the Internet for Photo Printing Projects and select Epson Creative Zone.

The Complete Guide to Digital Printing by Rob Sheppard. Lark books in association with Epson Printers. ISBN 1579904270