


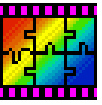




# Intermediate: Digital Photography: Software

## Image Editing Software

To work with your digital photos and create cards, albums, family trees, websites etc you will need access to some image editing software.

Hillingdon Libraries offer several choices - look out for these icons on the PCs on the Programmes Tab of the Launcher Pad:

	<b>Adobe Photoshop Elements</b> - each library has at least one PC that has a licence for this software. The Learning Centre at Central Library, Uxbridge has a licence on each PC. <b>NB: We also offer an e-Learning course for only £40.00</b>
	<b>PhotoFiltre</b> - free software available from the Internet and also available on all PCs across Hillingdon libraries.
	<b>MS PhotoEditor</b> - part of MS Windows 2000 and also available on all PCs across Hillingdon libraries.
	<b>Picasa2</b> - free software available from the Internet and also available on all PCs across Hillingdon libraries. Imports from digital cameras, scanners; organises and shares your photos

## File Formats

In order to open a file in a particular software program, the file has to be recognised by that program. On a PC, the file is identified by its three letters after the full stop, known as the file extension. Macs are different: the file extension is not necessary for the software to recognise the file.

All image editing software applications have their own proprietary formats, so it is not usually possible to open them in another programme. However there are generic image formats such as JPEGs and TIFFs which can be opened in most software programs. JPEG (.jpg on the PC) is the most common format.

Most digital cameras store the photographs that you take in this format. With JPEG, the image data is 'compressed' so that more images can fit on the memory card. When an image is compressed some of the image content is lost.

Most digital camera offer some control over the amount of compression. 'Good', 'Better' or 'Best' are typical options, with 'Good' being the smallest file and the poorest quality and 'Best', being the largest file and best quality.

## Techniques

Adobe Photoshop Elements and other freeware image editing software have been created with the amateur photographer and computer novice in mind.

You can perform many changes to your photographs or images through using some of the basic image editing techniques offered through the software applications:

- Rotate or flip the whole photo / image
- Resize the image - remember the quality of the photo will suffer if you try to enlarge it more than 10%
- Create a border around the photo / image
- Crop your photo / image
- Make selections
- Correct the exposure, colour, red-eye
- Sharpen or blur images

## Printing

From your PC screen you may not realise you are looking at a sub-standard image as it will probably look ok. Zoom the image to 100% - if you notice any obvious pixilation - blocks or jagged edges rather than a smooth appearance, you will probably have a problem when printing. Print images with at least a 200ppi (pixels per inch) - the higher the better. But the higher ppi, the more memory and disk space your PC will use and the longer they will take to be printed.