

# DIGITAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM JUNE 2005



HI ALL...

It's reached the end of another exciting month in the Digital Mages world. A world we'd like to share with you in this, our first newsletter.

The Digital Resources Project has now a good number of partners both up North (well, Fife) and around the Lothians. After a very enjoyable presentation at the Scottish Museums Council (and a rather excellent lunch) we expect a large handful more. We'll be drumming up support in the Borders in a matter of weeks. If you have ever wondered about the capacity of other partner museums the results of the museum surveys will soon be published for you all to see - unless we're persuaded to protect the guilty.

Individual consultation about training needs and wishes took place throughout Fife earlier this month. For a start we'll be providing training and advice on basic web design principles and image manipulation software as well as value for money and free software that will be of interest to you all.

We already have a number of websites at our disposal including <http://mages.org.uk> and our own <http://www.digitalimages.org> with current information about the project as well as background material.



Did you know that you can edit certain sections of the digitalimages site yourself? Simply email us for a username and password and you can play around to your heart's content. You may even find (or have found) this newsletter there. We'd like to see and hear your views on the project so far, wish-lists of things you'd like a greater understanding of (especially if it is within the remit of this project) and, of course, your answers to our weekly-ish polls.

## RESULTS OF FAVOURITE MEAT PRODUCT POLL:

Nobody really likes tripe  
A number of respondents  
were vegetarian  
Steak & Kidney Pie - the  
nation's favourite!

We've held two Executive Committee meetings and gained a lot of positive feedback about the work we've done so far as well as some interesting ideas about the project's future progress.

Minutes of the first meeting (for those that like the devilish detail) are also on the digitalImages site.

HAS ANYBODY PUT OUR SKILLS AND ADVICE INTO PRACTICE YET?

OH YES INDEED!

East Lothian Museums Service has bought a Linux operated touch-screen equipped computer which has become part of the displays on offer at the 'A Living From The Land' exhibition.

The idea for this came from the exact same equipment being demonstrated by Angus and Kyeran as part of the digital enhancements they would like to highlight within the touring exhibitions.

It features a touch-screen enabled DVD presentation as well as some interesting and enjoyable games to amuse (almost) everyone including jigsaws, memory testers and historical timeline quizzes.

THIS MONTH'S SOFTWARE FAVOURITE:

After much deliberation and not too many arguments we're plumping for OpenOffice. It does all that other fiendishly



expensive office packages can and more including PDF output. It can also read and save in formats generated by those other packages.

Oh, and it's FREE. Download it now - [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org).

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

WHAT IS DIGITAL IMAGE RESOLUTION?

Digital Images are made up of picture elements. These are known as pixels for short. These are clearly defined squares of colour data stacked up both horizontally and vertically.

Fine detail is rendered by having many, many of these pixels. Too few and the picture appears jagged (or pixelated). Conversely, if there are too many pixels for the job in hand, the file size can be very large and result in unnecessarily bogging down the computer or long download times.

We measure resolution in pixels per inch (ppi) or more commonly, dots per inch (dpi).

If we want to print out an image on glossy paper that looks as good as a conventional photograph made from film, we need the resolution of the image at its final size to be 300dpi.

However, if we want an image to be displayed on a website or sent over email we will want the file size to be much smaller so we will have to lower the image resolution. The optimum resolution for images viewed on a computer monitor is 72dpi.

As a rule of thumb, images for photographic quality prints should have 300dpi whereas images for on screen display should be 72dpi.

THIS ISSUE'S  
RECOMMENDED  
WEBSITE:

[www.worth1000.com](http://www.worth1000.com). A site with daily image manipulation contests. It has attracted (and helped to teach) many of the most talented image manipulators on the internet.

Whether you want to play or just browse the galleries the site is great source of information, inspiration and humour including special tutorial sections giving users step-by-step instructions on how to create some stunning (or at least amusing) special effects. Want to make a face from the smoke of a candle? Want to give a stack of pancakes some piranha teeth? Look no further.

*Worth*<sup>1000</sup>



AND FINALLY....

HOMEWORK FOR  
THOSE WITHOUT DOGS  
TO EAT IT.

Should you wish to know more about Adobe's Scan Resolution Guidelines:

<http://www.adobe.com/support/techdocs/316720.html>

For further information on Image Size and Resolution try:

[http://www.awdsf.com/courseware/photoshop/ps2\\_ImageSize\\_Resolution.htm](http://www.awdsf.com/courseware/photoshop/ps2_ImageSize_Resolution.htm)

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We're off... burning rubber for your amusement. It's summer - pack a good raincoat.