

Basic Graphic Design for Library Staff: Quick and Easy Solutions

An Infopeople Webinar

December 12, 2012

(link to archive)

WEBLIOGRAPHY

BLOGS

A Bit Bookish:

- A library blog by a south central Kentucky librarian. Her Passive/Aggressive library signs post is at:
<http://backgrounds.mysitemyway.com/>

Julie Bowers blog: <http://juliebowers.wordpress.com/>

- See how several library signs have been redesigned for better customer service:
<http://juliebowers.wordpress.com/usability/library-signage/>

Library Graphic Design: <http://librarygraphicdesign.blogspot.com/>

- A blog started in 2010 with examples of posters, handouts, and other designs for libraries

FONTS

Abstract Fonts: <http://www.abstractfonts.com/>

- Over 13,000 free fonts, searchable by category (3D to Weird), Designer, and more. Will also bring up a graphic list of the fonts installed on your computer.

Fontshop: <http://www.fontshop.com/>

- Thousand of fonts for purchase, so very expensive. A nice place to daydream.

Fontspace: <http://www.fontspace.com>

- Over 18,000 fonts for non-commercial use. Some are great for headlines.

1001 Free Fonts: <http://www.1001freefonts.com/>

- Fonts available for both Windows and Mac users, with a handy Customer Font Preview feature that lets you see what your text will look like in context.

IMAGES

Backgrounds etc.: <http://backgrounds.mysitemyway.com/>

- Free, high-quality background images for online use, although they work for printed works with some editing.

CartoonStock: <http://www.cartoonstock.com/>

- Thousands of licensed cartoon images. Pricing is determined by customer category and use.

Creative Commons: <http://creativecommons.org/>

- "Creative Commons is a nonprofit organization that enables the sharing and use of creativity and knowledge through free legal tools." All images may be used for free, and you can add your own images for others to use. Be sure to check the "Permissions" for each image.

Google Images: http://www.google.com/advanced_image_search

- Search the web for images and limit results in a variety of ways, including image size, color, aspect ratio, file type, usage rights and other categories. You can also drag an image to a search box and find sites containing that image.

iStockphoto: <http://www.istockphoto.com/>

- Thousands of images, both photographs and illustrations, buy professional artists. Most require payment, but some are free or very low cost. Registration required.

MS Office Images: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/images/>

- Free graphics and photos, as well as templates. Mac users will need to convert the WMF files to JPEGs.

Open Clip Art Library: <http://openclipart.org/>

- "...the largest collaborative community that creates, shares and remixes clipart. All clipart is released to the [public domain](#) and may be used in any project for free with no restrictions."

Google Image Search: <http://www.google.com/imghp?hl=en&tab=wi>

- Drag an image from the web or your computer and easily locate where it is used on the web.

Google Advanced Image Search:

http://www.google.com/advanced_image_search

- Allows to narrow your search scope by a number of factors, including usage rights.

TUTORIALS

Abduzeedo: <http://abduzeedo.com/>

- Free Tutorials for Photoshop and other programs and free downloadable fonts every Friday

Apple: <http://www.apple.com/iwork/tutorials/#pages-hero>

- Apple provides video tutorials for its iWorks 09 suite, including Keynote and Pages. A good place to start.

Graphic Designs: the new basics: <http://www.gdbasics.com/>

- A free online book with exercises for each topic

Lynda.com: <http://www.lynda.com>

- For a fee, Lynda.com provides really good online tutorials for Microsoft, Apple, and other companies on a variety of topics. Some libraries subscribe to the service, or parts of it, making it available to its resident cardholders. Some topics area also available on media CD.

Microsoft: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/training-FX101782702.aspx>

- Free downloadable video tutorials for MSWord and PowerPoint.

PhotoshopStar: <http://www.photoshopstar.com/>

- Free tutorials for Photoshop. It helps to know the basics of Photoshop to get the most out of these tutorials.

Psdut+: <http://psd.tutsplus.com/articles/web/50-totally-free-lessons-in-graphic-design-theory/>

- Fifty Free Lessons from various websites, blogs, etc.

YouTube TUTORIALS

Graphic Design for Beginners:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmEIWgFYtGU&feature=related>

- A 14-minute video introducing the ideas of contrast, repetition, alignment, proximity and color.

Graphic Design Tutorials:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuTuCmjSbZI>

- Seven short very basic videos, this one is on typography. Others include topics like using the color palette, choosing fonts, designing to a grid, etc.

Others:

- Search on “graphic design tutorial” for a list of major topics. If using a specific program, add that to the search – “graphic design tutorial photoshop.”

OTHER RESOURCES

Solomon, Laura. *Writing for the Web*.

<http://www.infopeople.org/training/writing-web>

- In this August 2012 archived Infopeople webinar Laura discusses the basic elements of creating readable text for the web, dos and don'ts, and what readers, especially teens, expect to find on websites.

QR Stuff: <http://www.qrstuff.com/>

Mobile Barcodes: <http://www.mobile-barcodes.com/qr-code-generator/>

- Create QR codes easily and for free.

VolunteerMatch: <http://www.volunteermatch.org/>

- Baby Boomers, retired professionals and others are looking for limited, specialized ways to volunteer. Find a graphic designer to create templates for your library. California residents can also contact Carla Lehn at the State Library (Carla.Lehn@library.ca.gov) for information about VolunteerMatch in CA.

Web and Graphic Design: <http://www.design-lib.com/>

- Articles on design, digital photography, and design resource links.