

I.D.E.A.S.

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Note: I did not cover every feature in each program, especially where the programs are very close to each other. If you do not see a feature listed that you are interested in or you think should be included, please feel free to email me.

	InDesign CS3	FrameMaker 8	QuarkXPress
Cost (US)	\$699- Included in numerous Creative Suite packages too	\$899- Included in the Technical Communication Suite too	\$799
Platforms			
Windows	Y	Y	Y
Macintosh	Y		Y
Unix		Y- Sun SPARCstation	
Expansion Options			
Plug-ins	Y	Y	Y
Scripting	Y	Y	Y
Type Formatting			
Paragraph Styles	Y	Y	Y
Character Styles	Y	Y	Y-All character-based settings must be included; creates overrides to paragraph styles
Unicode compatible	Y	Y	Y
Type Size Range	0.1 to 1296pt	2 to 400pt	2 to 720pt
Special Typesetting Features			
Skewed Text	Y-Per character or word		Y-Entire text frame only
Spine-Based Text Alignment	Y		
Leading Methods			
Auto	Y	Y	Y
Absolute	Y	Y	Y
Incremental			Y
Keep With			
Next Para	Y	Y	Y
Previous Para		Y	
Pg/Col Breaks in Style	Y	Y	
Run-In Heads		Y	
Multi-Column Straddled Heads		Y	
Paragraph Rules	Y	Y-Via Reference Pgs	Y
Paragraph Graphics		Y-Via Reference Pgs	
Nested Style Formatting	Y		

	InDesign CS3	FrameMaker 8	QuarkXPress
Hyphenation			
Paragraph-Based Hyphenation rather than line-by-line	Y		
No Hyphenation on Last Word	Y		
No Hyphenation Between Columns	Y		
Advanced Hyphenation Adjustment	Y		
Tables			
Table Styles	Y	Y	
Cell Styles	Y		
Auto-Link to Cell Styles	Y		
Auto-Link to Para Styles	Y		
Running Table Header & Footer	Y	Y	
Table Titles (as part of table)		Y	
Sorting		Y	
Straddled Tables that jump multiple columns		Y	
Custom Cell Borders	Y- Manually or with Cell Styles	Y- Manually	[Entire Row or Column only]
Link to Excel Files	Y	Y- Not as flexible as the other programs	Y
Editorial Functions			
Spell Check	Y	Y	Y
Interactive	Y		
Shared User Dictionaries	Y	Y	
Custom Options	Y	Y	Y
Auto-Correct	Y		
Thesaurus	[In InCopy only]	Y	
Document Compare		Y	
Equation Editor		Y	
Multi-Language	Y	Y	[Passport version available for \$1599]
Find/Change			
Standard	Y	Y	Y
By Formatting	Y	Y- Via Copy Special	Y
GREP	Y		
Auto-Bullet Lists	Y	Y	
Custom Bullets	Y	Y	
Auto-Number Lists	Y	Y	
Multi-Level Numbering	Y	Y	
Named Lists	Y	Y	
Track Changes	[In InCopy only]	Y	[In Quark CopyDesk only]
Change Bars		Y	
Notes/Comments	Y		
Conditional Text		Y	
Shared Content (in single document)	Through InCopy and placed InDesign docs	Through placed FrameMaker docs [does not include layout]	Through CopyDesk and Composition Zones

	InDesign CS3	FrameMaker 8	QuarkXPress
User Interface			
Multiple Undos	Y	Y	Y- Limited to 30 undos
Paste Special	Y	Y	
Paste In Place	Y		Y
Auto-Save	Y	Y	Y
Auto-Backup		Y	Y
Custom Keyboard Commands	Y	Y- Possible, but not as easy	[Third-Party Plug-in]
Long Document Features			
Books	Y	Y	Y
Sync Type Styles	Y	Y	Y
Sync Table Styles	Y	Y	
Sync Master Pages	Y	Y	
Volume Numbering		Y	
Chapter Numbering	Y	Y	
Page Numbering	Y	Y	Y
Total Page Count	Y	Y	
Cross-References	[Third-Party Plug-in]	Y	[Third-Party Plug-in]
Footnotes			
Standard	Y	Y	[Third-Party Plug-in]
Table		Y	
Endnotes	[Import only]	[Import only]	[Import only]
Running Headers/Footers	Y	Y	
Variables	Y	Y	
TOC/Lists			
By Paragraph Style	Y	Y	Y
By Character Style			Y
Index	Y	Y- Most advanced options, but limited user interface	Y
Anchored Graphics			
In-Line	Y	Y	Y
Custom Positioning	Y	Y	
Multiple In-Line Frames	Y	Y	Y
Layout Functions			
Master Pages	Y	Y	Y
Based-On	Y		
Locked Master Page Items	Y-Can unlock individual objects	Y-All frames are locked; must edit on master pg.	Y-Only by locking Default layer
Straddled Column Paragraph Formats		Y	
Side-Head Area		Y	
Baseline Grid for Vertical Text Alignment	Y- Multiple Grid settings	Y	Y
Align/Distribute	Y	Y	Y
Layers	Y		Y
Libraries	Y- Libraries and Snippets		Y

	InDesign CS3	FrameMaker 8	QuarkXPress
Page Setup			
Orientation	[Third-Party Plug-in]	Y	
Size	[Third-Party Plug-in]		
Guides			
Ruler Guides	Y		Y
Asymmetrical Column Guides	Y		
Bleed Guides	Y		Y- Not completely automatic
Graph Paper-like Layout Grids	Y	Y	
Text Wrap/Runaround	Y	Y- Limited for In-Line Graphics	Y
Clipping Path Support	Y	Y	Y
Alpha Channel Support	Y		Y
Vector Graphics	Y	Y	Y
Zoom Level	5-4000%	25-1600%	10-800%
Printable Pasteboard Area	Y		
Pagination			
Auto-Add Pages	[Only by Shift-clicking to flow imported text or third-party plug-in]	Y	Y- When using Auto Text Frames
Impose directly through program	Y		[Extra XTension available for \$299]
Graphics			
Gradient Tints	Y		Y- Limited to 2-color gradients
Hi-Res Graphic Display	Y		Y
Drawing Tools			
Pen Tool	Y	[No true Bezier pen tool, but work-around available]	Y
Standard Shapes	Y	Y	Y
Polygon/Star	Y		Y
Freehand	Y	Y	Y
Path Merge/Subtract	Y		Y
Special Effects			
Drop Shadow	Y		Y
Bevel & Emboss	Y		
Gloves	Y		
Fade to Transparency	Y		Y
Text Transparency (does not include separate settings for fill or border)	Y-One setting per frame		Y- Multiple settings per frame
Independent Transparency Settings (Contents, Fill, and Stroke)	Y		Y
Image Editing directly in program including Gaussian Blur and Unsharp Mask			Y
Object/Item/Frame Styles	Y		Y
Find/Change Objects by Attributes	Y		Y

	InDesign CS3	FrameMaker 8	QuarkXPress
Import Formats			
Photoshop native	Y	Y	Y
Layer Control	Y		Y
Transparency Support	Y		Y
Channel Control			Y
Illustrator native	Y	y	
Layer Control	Y		
Transparency Support	Y		
Program native	Y		
Layer Control	Y		
Transparency Support	Y		
PDF	Y	Y	Y
Layer Control	Y		
Transparency Support	Y		
EPS	Y	Y	Y
TIFF	Y	Y	Y
JPEG	Y	Y	Y
GIF/PNG	Y	Y	Y
Multi-Media Functions	Y	Y	
Hyperlinks	Y	Y	Y
Multi-Media PDF Export	Y	Y	Y- Limited to hyperlinks
Import Media			
QuickTime	Y		
Flash	Y	Y	
U3D		Y	
Advanced Color Management	Y		Y
Import/Export			
Export Formats			
PDF	Y	Y	Y
HTML	Y	Y	Y- Can actually create HTML layouts
Word/RTF	Y	Y	Y
Flash			Y- Via Quark Interactive Designer (\$49)
Import Features			
Import Word Styles	Y	Y	Y
Match Same-Name Styles	Y	Y	Y
Style Mapping	Y		
XML Support: Import/Export	Y	Y- Most advanced of the three, including DITA	Y
Prepress			
Preflight	Y (very basic)		Y-Via Job Jackets
Collection of Document, Graphics, Fonts	Y	[Third-Party Plug-in]	Y
PDF/X output	Y-1a, 3, 4	Y- Through Distiller	Y- 1a, 3