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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 CS5	FrameMaker 9	QuarkXPress 8.1
Cost (US)		\$699– Included in numerous Creative Suite packages too	\$999– Included in the Technical Communication Suite too	\$799
<b>Platforms</b>				
	Windows	Y	Y	Y
	Macintosh	Y		Y
	Unix		Y– Sun SPARCstation	
<b>Expansion Options</b>				
	Plug-ins	Y	Y	Y
	Scripting	Y	Y	Y
<b>Type Formatting</b>				
	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
	WYSIWYG Font menu	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	Y	
	Pg/Col Breaks in Style	Y	Y	
	Run-In Heads		Y	
	Multi-Column Straddled Heads	Y	Y	
	Side-Head Layout area	[Third-Party Plug-in] <sup>1</sup>	Y	
	Paragraph Rules	Y	Y–Via Reference Pgs	Y
	Paragraph Graphics		Y–Via Reference Pgs	
	Nested Style Formatting (auto-applied character styles based on typed content or by line)	Y		

1] Not as sophisticated as FrameMaker

		InDesign CS5	FrameMaker 9	QuarkXPress 8.1
	GREP Style Formatting (auto-applied character styles based on GREP coding)	Y		
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	Y- Not as advanced	
	Table Geometry as part of Style	[Third-Party Plug-in]		
	Running Table Header & Footer	Y	Y	
	Table Titles (as part of table)		Y	
	Table Continuation Variable		Y	
	Sorting	Y-with free script	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- Can link to Named Regions	Y- Not as flexible as the other programs	Y
Editorial Functions				
	Separate Editing Program for simultaneous edits	Y- InCopy		Y- CopyDesk
	Spell Check	Y	Y	Y
	Interactive	Y		
	Shared User Dictionaries	Y	Y	
	Multiple User Dictionaries	Y		
	Custom Options	Y	Y	Y
	Auto-Correct	Y		
	Thesaurus	[In InCopy only]	Y	
	Document Compare		Y	
	Equation Editor		Y	
	Multi-Language	Y	Y	Y
	Glyph panel for extended character support	Y		Y
	Hanging Character/Punctuation	Y		Y
	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	

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	Track Changes	Y	Y	[In CopyDesk only]
	Change Bars		Y	
	Notes/Comments	Y		
	Conditional Text	Y	Y	
	Conditional Tables	Y- Entire table only	Y- per-row basis	
	Conditional Graphics	Y- Anchored Only	Y- Anchored Only	
	Shared Content (in single document)	Through InCopy and placed InDesign docs	Through placed FrameMaker docs [no layout]	Through CopyDesk and Composition Zones
<b>User Interface</b>				
	Multiple Undos	Y	Y-Most limited to text edits	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- Not as easy	[Third-Party Plug-in]
	Tool Switching via Keyboards	Y		Y
<b>Long Document Features</b>				
	Books	Y	Y	Y
	Sync Type Styles	Y	Y	Y
	Sync Table Styles	Y	Y	
	Sync Master Pages	Y	Y	
	Sync Object/Item Styles	Y		
	Sync Variables/CrossRefs/Cond. Text	Y	Y	
	Sync TOC/Lists	Y		Y
	Sync Colors	Y	Y	Y
	Books within Books		Y	
	Volume Numbering		Y	
	Chapter Numbering	Y	Y	
	Page Numbering	Y	Y	Y
	Total Page Count	Y	Y	
	Cross-References	Y	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	
	Different Characters Styles Applied to Var.		Y	
	TOC/Lists			
	By Paragraph Style	Y	Y	Y
	By Character Style			Y
	Index	Y	Y	Y
	Allows multiple Indices		Y	
	Includes Topic List panel	Y		Y

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Anchored Graphics				
	In-Line	Y	Y	Y
	Custom Positioning	Y	Y	
	Multiple In-Line Frames	Y	Y	Y
	Anchored Multiple Objects	Y- Grouped Objects	Y- Within Parent Frame	Y- Grouped
<b>Layout Functions</b>				
Master Pages		Y	Y	Y
	Based-On	Y		
	Locked Master Page Items	Y-Can unlock individual objects	Y-Background frames are locked; must edit on master pg.	Y-Only by locking Default layer (but can't if using Auto Text Box)
	Master Items on custom layers	Y		Default layer only
Straddled Column Paragraph Formats			Y	
Side-Head Area			Y	
Baseline Grid for Vertical Text Alignment		Y- Multiple Grid settings	Y	Y- Multiple Grid settings
Align/Distribute		Y	Y	Y
Layers		Y		Y
	Object-level layers	Y		
Libraries		Y- Libraries and Snippets		Y
Page Setup				
	Rotated Pages (90° increments)	Y	Y	
	Different Page Size	Y		
Guides				
	Ruler Guides	Y		Y
	Asymmetrical Column Guides	Y		
	Bleed Guides	Y		Y
	Graph Paper-like Layout Grids	Y	Y	
	Smart Guide alignment & spacing	Y		
	Advanced Guide placement	Y		Y
Text Wrap/Runaround		Y	Y- Limited	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 [Slug area]		
Pagination				
	Auto-Add Pages	Y- When using Master Text Frames or multi-page threaded frames	Y	Y- When using Auto Text Frames
	Impose directly through program	Y		[Extra XTension available for \$299]
Database Merge Features		Y		

Graphics		InDesign CS5	FrameMaker 9	QuarkXPress 8.1
	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		
	Glow	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
	Import Options			
	Import multiple files	Y		
	Proportional place	Y		
	Contact sheet placement	Y		
	Import Formats			
	Photoshop native	Y	Y	Y
	Layer Control	Y		Y
	Transparency Support	Y		Y
	Channel Control			Y
	Illustrator native	Y	Y	Y
	Layer Control	Y		
	Transparency Support	Y		
	Multiple Artboard 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
	Raster Formats: TIFF, JPEG, PNG, GIF	Y	Y	Y

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	Multi-Media Functions	Y	Y	
	Hyperlinks	Y	Y	Y
	Buttons	Y		
	Animation (for Flash export)	Y		Basic
	Multi-Media PDF Export	Y	Y	Limited to hyperlinks
	Import Media			
	QuickTime	Y		
	Flash (FLV & SWF)	Y	Y	
	U3D		Y	
	Advanced Color Management	Y		Y
<b>Import/Export</b>				
	Export Formats			
	PDF	Y	Y	Y
	Unflattened or Layered PDFs	Y		Y
	Transparent PDFs	Y		Y
	PDF Bookmark generation	Y- with TOC generation	Y- with TOC generation or style usage	Y- with TOC generation
	Interactive PDFs	Y	Y	
	HTML	Y	Y- native export and live-linked to RoboHelp	Y- Can actually create HTML layouts
	ePub	Y		
	Word/RTF	Y	Y	Y
	Flash	Y- SWF & XFL		Y- Via included Quark Interactive Designer
	Import Features			
	Import Word Styles	Y	Y	Y
	Match Same-Name Styles	Y	Y	Y
	Style Mapping	Y		
	PDF Comment import	[Third-Party Plug-in]	Y	
	XML Support: Import/Export	Y	Y	Y
	DITA Support		Y	
	Mapping of Elements to Formatting	Y	Y-in EDD	
	DTD Validation	Y	Y	
	DTD Editing		Y-in EDD	
	SMGL Support		Y	
<b>Prepress</b>				
	Preflight	Y		Y-Via Job Jackets
	Live Preflight	Y		
	Advanced Linked Graphic Panel	Y		
	Font Replacement			
	Advanced Font replacement	Y		
	Font replacement presets			Y
	Collection of Document, Graphics, Fonts	Y	[Third-Party Plug-in]	Y
	PDF/X output	Y-1a, 3, 4	Y- Through Distiller	Y- 1a, 3, 4