



Compiled by David Creamer

DCreamer@IDEAstraining.com

www.IDEAstraining.com

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, there is a feature you think should be included, or you see an error, please feel free to email me.

Special thanks to Peter Gold at KnowHowPro.com for input.

		InDesign CC	FrameMaker 11	QuarkXPress 10
Cost (US)		\$20/month or entire Cloud subscription (\$49/mon.).	\$999– Included in the Technical Communication Suite too	\$849
Platform Specific Features				
	Windows	Y	Y	Y
	Macintosh	Y		Y
	Unix		Y– Sun SPARCstation	
	Retina/HiDPI display support	Y		Y
	64-Bit support	Y		
Expansion Options				
	Plug-ins	Y–numerous	Y	Y
	Scripting	Y (Javascript, AppleScript, and VBscript)	Y (ExtendScript)	Y
Type Formatting				
	Paragraph Styles	Y	Y	Y
	Based-On Paragraph Styles	Y	(It is possible to update multiple styles at once, but it can be awkward)	Y
	Character Styles	Y— Easier to build in InDesign	Y	Y– Every character-based settings must be included; creates overrides to paragraph styles
	Based-On Character Styles	Y	(It is possible to update multiple styles at once, but it can be awkward)	Y
	Unicode compatible	Y	Y	Y
	WYSIWYG Font menu	Y		
	Favorite/Recent Fonts list	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

1] Not as sophisticated as FrameMaker

2] Not as sophisticated as InDesign

		InDesign CC	FrameMaker 11	QuarkXPress 10
	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] ¹	Y	
	Paragraph Rules	Y	Y-Via Reference Pgs ²	Y
	Paragraph-Style Inserted Graphics		Y-via Reference Pgs (only above or below paragraph)	
	Nested/Conditional Style Formatting (auto-applied character styles based on typed content or by line)	Y		Y
	GREP Style Formatting (auto-applied character styles based on GREP coding)	Y		
	Underline—advanced format options	Y		
	Paragraph and Character background color	via work-around with custom underline	Y	
Hyphenation				
	Paragraph-Based Hyphenation rather than line-by-line	Y		
	No Hyphenation on Last Word	Y		
	No Hyphenation Between Columns/Pages	Y		
	Advanced Hyphenation Adjustment	Y		
Tables				
	Table Styles	Y	Y ²	
	Cell Styles	Y		
	Auto-Link to Cell Styles	Y		
	Auto-Link to Para Styles	Y	Y ²	
	Table Geometry as part of Style	[Third-Party Plug-in]	Y—from lasted saved table style	
	Running Table Header & Footer	Y	Y	
	Table Titles (as part of table style)		Y	
	Table Continuation/Sheet Variable		Y	
	Sorting	Y—with free script	Y	
	Straddled Tables that jump multiple columns	Anchored text frame workaround	Y	
	Custom Cell Borders and Shading	Y— Manually or with Cell Styles	Y— Manually (custom borders can be used in table styles)	[Entire Row or Column only]
	Link to Excel Files	Y— Extremely powerful	Y— But virtually useless in real world	Y
	Table positioning in style		Y	
	Automatic Row Orphan Control		Y	
	Column Resizing Methods	3 ³	7	3 ³

1] Not as sophisticated as FrameMaker 2] Not as sophisticated as InDesign
3] Manually, geometry, and distribute evenly; FrameMaker adds numerous other methods

		InDesign CC	FrameMaker 11	QuarkXPress 10
Editorial Functions				
	Separate Editing Program for simultaneous edits	Y- via InCopy (IC is included in CC subscription)		Y- CopyDesk
	Spell Check	Y	Y	Y
	Interactive	Y	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-Basic Interface	Y
	Hanging Character/Punctuation	Y		Y
	Find/Change			
	Standard	Y	Y	Y
	By Formatting	Y	Y- Via Copy Special	Y
	GREP	Y	a few wildcards	
	Auto-Bullet Lists	Y	Y	Y
	Custom Bullets	Y	Y	Y
	Auto-Number Lists	Y	Y	Y
	Multi-Level Numbering	Y	Y	Y
	Named Lists	Y	Y	Y
	Track Changes	Y	Y	[In CopyDesk only]
	Change Bars		Y-Mostly replaced with Track Changes	
	Notes/Comments	Y-In Text only		
	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 Same Document	Y	possible, but awkward	Y
	In Separate Documents	via InCopy link	via referenced Frame documents	via CopyDesk link
User Interface				
	Multiple Undos	Y	Y-for text edits; Undos deleted for non-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 simple Keyboards	Y		Y

Long Document Features		InDesign CC	FrameMaker 11	QuarkXPress 10
	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 (Child Books)		Y-Child books must be opened and updated separately	
	Grouped Chapters		Y-sequences chapter number	
	Book Folders for Chapters		Y-maintains chapter number	
	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 Text	Y-will not span multiple columns	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 to Variable		Y	
	Variables allowed to wrap in text		Y	
	Continued On/From variables	Y		Y
	TOC/Lists (multiple)			
	By Paragraph Style	Y	Y	Y
	By Character Style			Y
	Index	Y	Y	Y
	Allows multiple Indices	possible, but awkward	Y	
	Includes Topic List panel	Y		Y
	Anchored Graphics			
	In-Line	Y	Y	Y
	Custom Positioning	Y	Y	Y
	Floating Position		Y	
	Drag-and-Drop anchoring	Y		Y
	Multiple In-Line Frames	Y	Y	Y
	Anchored Multiple Objects	Y- Grouped Objects (must be grouped before anchoring)	Y- Within Parent Frame	Y- Grouped

		InDesign CC	FrameMaker 11	QuarkXPress 10
Layout Functions				
	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		Y
	Straddled Column Paragraph Formats	Y	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–via Reference pages (limited)	Y
	Page Setup			
	Rotated Pages (90° increments)	Y	Y	
	Different Page Sizes	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
	Auto-Delete Pages	Y–When preference is turned on	Y	
	Impose printer-spreads	Y		[Extra XTension available for \$299]
	Database Merge Features	Y ³	3	3

1] Not as sophisticated as FrameMaker
3] Advanced third-party options available

2] Not as sophisticated as InDesign

		InDesign CC	FrameMaker 11	QuarkXPress 10
Graphics				
	Gradient Tints	Y		Y- Limited to 2-color gradients
	Hi-Res Graphic Display	Y		Y
	Drawing Tools			
	Pen Tool	Y	Basic, limited "pen" tool option	Y
	Standard Shapes	Y	Y	Y
	Polygon/Star	Y		Y
	Freehand	Y	Y	Y- includes ShapeMaker
	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 ²	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/Blending Mode Control			Y
	Illustrator native	Y	Y	Y
	Layer Control	Y		
	Transparency Support	Y		
	Multiple Artboard support	Y		
	Program native	Y	Y- for text	
	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

		InDesign CC	FrameMaker 11	QuarkXPress 10
	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
Import/Export				
	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 styles	Y- with TOC generation
	Interactive PDFs	Y	Y	
	PDF Forms fields	Y		
	HTML	Y-very basic	Y- via native export and live-linked to RoboHelp	Y- Can actually create HTML layouts
	ePub	Y	Y- via native export and live-linked to RoboHelp	Y
	Drag-and-Drop graphics position	Y		Y
	Word/RTF	Y	Y	Y
	Flash	Y- SWF & XFL		Y- Via included Quark Interactive Designer
	iPad and Android apps	Y		Y-via included App Studio
	Alternate Layouts (H & V)	Y		
	Liquid Layouts	Y		
	Import Features			
	Import Word Styles	Y	Y	Y
	Match Same-Name Styles	Y	Y	Y
	Style Mapping	Y		
	PDF Comment import	Y	Y	

		InDesign CC	FrameMaker 11	QuarkXPress 10
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	
	XML Edit view		Y	
	Placeholder/Banner text		Y-in EDD	
	Overall XML Support		Note: FrameMaker's XML/DITA support is so far above the other programs, it is not worth listing all of its features here.	
Prepress				
	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	via script	Y
	PDF/X output	Y-1a, 3, 4	Y- Through Distiller	Y- 1a, 3, 4