

Microsoft Publisher 2007

By Mary Reilly

As a novice to the Microsoft Publisher Program I found it was a breeze to install with an instant "*ready to use*" interface compiled of nicely labeled yellow file folders. The user-friendly interface makes the basic features of a project easy to select and create with almost no learning curve. As I opened and viewed the contents of each folder it only took me minutes to realize that Microsoft Office Publisher is an ideal program for home offices and small business owners with an abundance of professional-looking letterheads, business cards, web pages, multimedia presentation tools and e-mail options.

I believe the program would be somewhat of an 'overkill' for ordinary consumers that are just looking to create fancy calendars, stationery and greeting cards. However, I was somewhat disappointed that it did not come with the "Ribbon Interface" but the endless possibilities that can be created within the program made up for lack of that particular user-friendly feature.

The "*Content Library*" was a definite plus; it works as a publication-independent clipboard, which allows you to save several different text items and graphics to pull them into your project as you work on it, which undoubtedly is a true time-saver. I found the program to be equipped with minimal photo editing tools; therefore if your graphics and/or photos need extensive editing I would strongly suggest that you use a Microsoft Digital Imaging program for editing and then incorporate them into your project.

When selecting a template from the "*Template Library*", such as a business form or brochure template, I was provided with a clear "*Task Assistant Panel*" to guide me with editing tools, including colors, logos, fonts and other pertinent information to complete a very professional looking document. I was truly impressed with the "*Label Templates*" which automatically come with the Avery label number so there is no more searching or guessing as to what label is needed.

Another impressive feature was the "*Search Tool*" which allowed me to quickly locate and preview templates by going on-line and retrieving them from the Publisher catalog. For an example; if the clipart I was looking for was not available, Microsoft Publisher gave me the option of going on-line to search further. When doing so, 47 titles pop up; within that category you can select a word starting with almost any letter within the alphabet. Each thumbnail comes with a small check mark box. When your selections are made within seconds MP categorizes the clipart as it downloads into file folders and places them into your "My Pictures" folder.

Although I did not physically test the feature of the "*Pack & Go Wizard*" which gathers the fonts and graphics together for transporting, I did call a few commercial printers in the area and was assured that they supported Microsoft Publisher 2007. I was told that I could send the file via e-mail and the end result would be a high quality commercial looking product.

I found this program to be flexible and powerful, very user friendly with hundreds, if not thousands of possibilities. To date my findings of Microsoft Publisher 2007 are as follows:

“The Getting Started” experience was easy to create and apply elements to the design templates through the Preview option.

The “Content Library” is a true time-saver which allows you to reuse frequently used text and graphics in your projects.

The ability to easily insert images from a scanner or digital camera, adjustable grids and guidelines, recolor and crop to a template or your own created design.

The Design Checker quickly finds potential e-mail problems as well as Web or commercial printing.

Supports PDF Publishing.

From a scale from 1 to 5, I would rate this program a 4 for the following reasons:

It does not come with a printed manual. I had to connect to internet and register the program before it could be used in its entirety. Although the program does come with photo editing tools, the options are few compared to the Microsoft Digital Imaging program.