

TMG Users Group

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Presentation by David Walker

Publishing Your Family History

Using Microsoft Publisher & TMG as Book Manager

The intention for my current project was to use Publisher for the main textual component, and the perceived TMG Book Manager to create chart and journal reports, which would then be merged with the Publisher file.

TMG Book Manager

The TMG Book Manager is clearly *NOT* a book manager. It is a report manager.

In the words of Jim Byram "The Book Manager could be better named. It could be used to construct a book using Word's master document feature, for example. I use it to run a series of List of People Reports to set the flag used for Second Site output. This requires four LOP reports being run in succession for what I want to accomplish. Using Book Manager, it can be done by running one Book Manager report."

Publishing Your Family History

Based upon the size of the document, and the amount of images, one will likely choose between a word processor and desktop publishing software. The former technology is getting better, but still lags behind.

Using Word Processing

Word Processor software (Word, Word Perfect) is fine if you are typing only text, and can be several hundred pages long.

You can also insert a minimal number of images.

Word Processor software becomes unbearably slow when the document size reaches 50MB with a large number of images.

Layout of text and images becomes a frustrating chore. At this point consider Desktop Publishing.

Using Desktop Publishing

- Shows no sign of slowing down when documents are large. My current project contains >400 pages, many images and is >256MB.
- Create text boxes within a page that can be moved & resized easily as an object
- Easily insert images
- Group images and text boxes for ease of moving as a set
- Set text overflow from one page to any other page.

Publishing Your Family History

Family history implies that you are going to write beyond the basic genealogy data, i.e. more than descendant reports. Family history implies that you also have stories to tell.

Publishing Your Family History

My approach is to use desktop publishing to write “the stories”.

Reports (usually Journal style) from TMC are saved in MS Word format. The so-called Book Manager is used to queue a set of reports to be produced. All of the individual journal reports are then merged into a single Word document.

Alternatively, one could import the Word journal report into Publisher, merging with your existing stories. For my current project, I have chosen to keep the two operations separate as the final size of the project will exceed 2,000 pages.

Publishing Your Family History

My typical setup:

I use a desktop computer that supports dual displays, specifically two 19" LCD monitors. I have MS Publisher open on the left monitor and ACDSEE (imaging software) on the right monitor.

Typically, once the main text has been created I drag the images from the right monitor over to the left. Resizing and layout is a simple task.