

Practical Research on CorelDraw12 in Newspaper Editing and Layout Design: Postprint

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Abstract

CorelDraw12, a graphic design software developed by the Canadian software company Corel, is a powerful application widely utilized in numerous fields, including graphics production, trademark design, logo and signage creation, editorial layout design, and graphic color separation output. The primary objective of this paper is to conduct a practical study analyzing the application of this software in newspaper editorial layout through actual case studies of CorelDraw12's deployment.

Full Text

CorelDraw12 in Newspaper Editing and Layout Design: A Practical Study

Abstract: CorelDraw12 is a powerful graphic design software developed by the Canadian company Corel, widely applied in graphic production, trademark design, logo creation, editorial layout design, and color separation output. This paper analyzes the practical application of this software in newspaper editing and layout design through real-world case studies from our organization.

Keywords: CorelDraw12; newspaper editing and layout; practical application

CorelDraw12 features a clean, highly intuitive interface that is convenient to operate and offers extensive creative space, enabling meticulous precision according to design requirements. Using CorelDraw12 for newspaper design allows readers to fully appreciate the designer's ingenuity through detailed arrangements and layout composition, creating a lasting impression. Our newspaper has consistently utilized this software for editing and layout, currently employing version

12. This paper elaborates on the practical application of CorelDraw12 in newspaper editing and layout design through specific operations and implementations in our production workflow.

1. Layout Settings

Layout settings essentially involve template configuration. By creating and saving templates for the newspaper being edited, we can achieve immediate usability without redundant redesign, thereby saving substantial manpower and time.

First, launch the software and create a new target file for saving. Second, set the newspaper dimensions through the menu bar properties button. Our newspaper typically uses a large 9K format measuring $546\text{mm} \times 394\text{mm}$. Third, configure the page header, masthead, and content area dimensions using the line, rectangle, and text tools. For example, the page header is $26\text{mm} \times 3\text{cm}$, the masthead is $26\text{mm} \times 5\text{cm}$, with 3cm margins on the top, bottom, left, and right. Fourth, determine the appropriate paper type. While newsprint is standard for newspapers, coated paper may be used for special requirements such as covers. Our newspaper uses newsprint. Paper color selection is also critical since printing typically employs four-color process; therefore, color adjustment requires careful attention. Using minimal colors yields the clearest results.

2. Editing and Layout

After completing layout settings, editing and layout can proceed according to the manuscript content. Standard newspapers typically employ three to six columns, with our publication generally using this range.

2.1 Title Editing

Titles play a particularly crucial role in articles, requiring conciseness and strong visual impact to summarize the main theme in a single phrase. Attracting readers' attention depends not only on title content but also on diverse styles and formats, including single-line, double-line, and multi-line headings. It is important to note that titles should include not only main headlines but also various subheadings and explanatory shoulder headings. These elements must be arranged aesthetically and rhythmically, with appropriate color usage to enhance content visibility. Using the text tool from the menu bar, select the position and input the title content. Set the font size and dimensions; if the title is too long, consider using two lines by pressing the enter key. In most cases, special character visual effects can be added as needed using fill tools from the toolbar, effectively attracting reader attention. Without special requirements, the title-to-body text size ratio is generally set at 1:3, combined with distinctive fonts and bold lines to create greater visual impact.

2.2 Body Text Editing

Select the text tool from the toolbar and drag out the text area for body content. After inputting the text, configure paragraph settings through the “Text Format” button in the toolbar, where specific text styles such as “Character” can be adjusted. Our newspaper typically uses 9.6pt character size with Songti (SimSun) font style. Line spacing is set at 112, with paragraph spacing kept at default unless special requirements exist. For first-line indentation, we use the “Indentation” button in the toolbar. Without special requirements, we typically indent 2 characters, which for 9.6pt font size corresponds to 8.3mm. The indentation amount is proportional to font size.

To create more rational and visually rich layouts that attract attention, appropriate image integration is essential. Images play an increasingly important role in today’s big data information age and serve as a crucial vehicle for direct information communication. For image editing and layout, use the add button and adjust size according to actual needs. More specific modifications such as transparency, brightness, and color saturation can be made through settings in the toolbar. We typically employ text-wrapping layout, adjustable through the image property manager.

3.2 Text Editing Application

In practical work, editing and layout require substantial time, effort, and resources, not only consuming considerable time but also directly increasing production costs. Therefore, summarizing experience and exploring workflow techniques proves particularly important in real-world operations. While the copy function is frequently used, conventional methods require at least three repetitive actions, making the “+” key function highly useful. For duplicating several images, text paragraphs, or lines, simply pressing the “+” button on the keyboard accomplishes the task. Another editing scenario involves vertically aligning two paragraphs. Typically, we select both paragraphs and press Ctrl+E on the keyboard to achieve vertical alignment. Similarly, selecting two paragraphs and pressing Ctrl+C implements center alignment. These techniques save time and effort in practical editing work, are simple and convenient, and multiply work efficiency.

The convenience of CorelDraw12 in text editing deserves recognition. We generally input content directly in designated areas. However, special attention must be paid to garbled text issues during copy-paste operations. This can be resolved by right-clicking to access property settings in the toolbar and adjusting to CorelDraw12 text attributes. For operators unfamiliar with the software, an alternative method involves converting copied content through the computer’s Notepad software. The specific procedure involves copying to Notepad, then reselecting and copying from Notepad for pasting—an effective and straightforward solution.

3.3 Layout Editing

Newspaper layout design differs from general paper design. The outdated concept of uniform, one-size-fits-all design should be abandoned in favor of content-specific design philosophies. For instance, news sections should emphasize conciseness and strong titles with vivid colors, pursuing a grand yet unpretentious style to achieve a stable, substantial, and well-documented design concept. For comprehensive information sections, which are typically complex, we must maintain clear hierarchy and proper organization while remaining inclusive. Health and medical sections must convey professionalism, authenticity, and reliability to inspire reader trust. Entertainment and culture sections require stronger atmosphere creation, achieving a lively and timely presentation.

3.4 Application of the Golden Ratio Principle

In overall newspaper layout design, we generally apply the mathematical golden ratio principle. From overall composition to section coordination, we typically follow the 1:0.618 ratio, creating a sense of aesthetic balance in text, line, and image layout. Additionally, image and font combinations must achieve richness without garishness, detail without complexity, with clear primary and secondary elements, prominent text, and vivid yet restrained imagery to avoid redundancy.

4. Post-production Output

4.1 Attribute Settings

Before proceeding to printing, thoroughly check font attributes and grouping settings. For font transformation, the fundamental principle involves converting basic fonts into graphic fonts. The operation steps are: first, select the content in the work area and find “Ungroup” in the toolbar; second, select all font characters and press Ctrl+Q on the keyboard to convert basic text to curve text. Note that this curve text becomes graphic text without basic text attributes.

4.2 Printing Preparation

Before printing, confirm the entire file’s attributes. We typically define the file format as EPS for lossless compression before sending to the relevant printing department for final production.

5. Conclusion

The diversity of news content in practical production determines the diversity of layout design. The guiding principle is to maximize the visual and emotional impact of news content through rich and varied editing and layout. This paper introduces some basic functions and tips of CorelDraw12 through practical applications of simple problems, hoping to provide modest assistance to industry colleagues. We welcome valuable feedback from readers.

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Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.

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