Graphics Fundamentals

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Q: What is resolution?
A: The amount of information or pixels contained in an image.

Resolution is measured in DPI (dots per inch) or PPI (pixels per inch). These are literally the number of dots or pixels that can be placed side by side in a line one inch long. The more dots or pixels, the better the clarity – the higher the resolution of the image.

Q: What are BAD sources of image files?
• Screen captures
Images on the web are usually only 72 dpi. They are not intended for print.
• Cut or copied and pasted images. Resolution is very low and image quality degrades.

Q: What are the best resolution for photos?
A: 300 dpi

Q: What is the best resolution for line art graphics?
A: 900 dpi (Tip: Scan them in black/white—not grayscale!)

Q: What is the best way to submit my graphics?
A: Submit each graphic separately, along with your text file. Don’t insert your photos into your manuscript.

• Slides or photos prints
(Tip: Scan them at 300 dpi and scale [enlarge] images to final desired size during scanning stage.)

• Downloadable high resolution images
http://brand.nmsu.edu/photography.html
http://bugwood.org
http://images.fws.gov/

Q: What are GOOD sources of image files?
• Digital camera images
(Tip: Set your camera at the highest or second to highest resolution setting.)