Development of Descriptive Terminology for Inkjet-printed Photographs and Fine Art
Daniel Burge, Image Permanence Institute

THE MEDIA NAMING AND DESCRIPTIVE TERMS CHART

Basic Media Name	Media Descriptors			
	Colorant	**Ink Vehicle**	**Coating**	**Support**
Inkjet	Dye Mixed Pigment (Unknown colorant)	Aqueous Solvent UV-curable Latex Wax Other (Unknown vehicle)	Uncoated Porous Polymer (Unknown coating)	Plain paper Fine art paper RC paper Baryta paper Canvas Other (Unknown support)

In the new system, the single primary term "inkjet" is followed by a sequence of four standard qualifiers (colorant, vehicle, coating, and support). Example: Medium ("inkjet print") and Extended Medium ("inkjet print: dye aqueous on porous-coated fine art paper").

GLOSSARY

Ink Terms

Aqueous Ink: an ink that uses water as the liquid vehicle to carry the colorant

Colorant: a substance (dye or pigment) that imparts the color to an ink or toner

Dye: an organic colorant soluble in the ink vehicle

Ink Vehicle: the liquid component of ink that carries the colorant to the paper surface during printing

Latex Ink: an ink that uses a viscous vehicle that coalesces and hardens under heat curing

Mixed: a printer ink set that includes a pigment black ink and dye cyan, magenta, and yellow inks

Pigment: an organic or inorganic colorant insoluble in the ink vehicle.

Solvent Ink: an ink that uses an organic solvent as opposed to water as the vehicle to carry the colorant

UV-curable Ink: an ink that uses a liquid polymer as the vehicle to carry the colorant and that hardens on exposure to ultra-violet energy

Wax Ink: an ink that uses a wax as the vehicle which when heated liquefies and can be ejected from inkjet print nozzles

Coating Terms

Polymer-coated: a coating on the surface of inkjet paper made up of a water soluble polymer that swells and absorbs ink during printing

Porous-coated: a coating on the surface of inkjet print media made up of mineral particles in a polymer binder so that when applied ink will be absorbed into the pores between the particles

Uncoated: a paper that has no special coating applied to the surface to receive inkjet inks

Support Terms

Baryta paper: an inkjet paper manufactured to simulate fiber-based silver gelatin photographic paper

Canvas: a woven fabric, porous-coated inkjet substrate intended to mimic the textural and visual qualities of painting canvas

Fine art paper: a high quality paper for printmaking, watercolor, or other artwork

Plain paper: a typical office or copier paper

RC paper (also known as resin-coated paper): a paper laminated on both sides with a polyethylene film to important rigidity and resi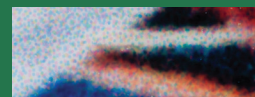stance against water absorption