

ImageJ Problems:

1. Netscape Navigator vs. Internet Explorer:

A. All recent (within the last two years) versions of Navigator and Explorer Browsers work with only minor glitches on the Windows 95, 98, NT and ME platform. On the Macintosh platform things are more problematic. Any recent Mac Internet Explorer Browser has no significant problems. Netscape Navigator however does not work with any of the current operating systems on the Mac. (This is not entirely Netscape's fault - most of the blame must be shared by Apple) Whether it will work with Mac OS X, I do not know and would be interested in getting some feedback.

B. All ImageJ images open under File/Open Samples. If you go to file Open one of two things will happen. You will get a lot of code gibberish or it will actually open and be ready for you to browse and select an image file on your hard drive or file server. If it does the latter this will be very handy for uploading and working with your own files.

C. If you regularly use Netscape Navigator on the Mac you might want to load on a copy of Explorer to use specifically for ImageJ. (Netscape will remain your default browser.)

D. On the plus side for Macintosh. All operating systems – I believe from 8.0 upward – come with Apple Applet Runner as part of the Apple Extras Folder. Runner will allow you to "run" applets like ImageJ without using a browser Like Netscape or Explorer.

2. ImageJ applet:

If you open on a WEB page where JAVA launches and then the ImageJ applet appears, ImageJ will have the images in File/Open Samples that are associated with that page. If you then move to another Web page that has the ImageJ applet, the applet will launch again with the images unique to that page. Now you have both applets on the desktop. You/students might wonder why a particular image is not coming up under File/Open Samples. It will probably be because you have the "old" applet showing. This is a problem with ImageJ that has no easy correction. The two possible solutions that come to mind are to be careful about the applet you have current and secondly to close the applet from one WEB page before you go on to the next. (The second option is, I think, the best one to take.)

Again, on the plus side for Apple, this does not happen when you are running Explorer. There is not "carry-over" of the ImageJ applet.

If you are directing students to a particular lesson I would consider having them bring up a Word file that has the link on it like:

<http://science.exeter.edu/jekstrom/WEB/CELLS/Epith/Epith.html>

This way they will not go through the introductory pages and pick up JAVA applets that are not relevant to that exercise.

3. Lessons:

A. A difficulty in putting ImageJ lessons on the Internet is how do you provide a "teacher" answer sheet without making it available for all. (i.e. students) I haven't figured that one out yet. If there is a particular lesson that you – teacher – are having trouble with, I would suggest you email me and I will try and see whether it is a problem on your part or some error on my part.

B. When it comes to "Copying" and "Pasting" this can only take place if you are copying between images saved in the same format. To find out what that format is it is only necessary to look at the top of the open image for that information.

640x480 pixels; 8-bit grayscale; 300K

640x480 pixels; RGB; 1200K

If you were copying something from an image that had the information shown on the left it would be advisable to go to Image on the menu bar of ImageJ and select Type - 8-bit grayscale. Then whatever you copy from the image on the left will paste into the right-hand image.

4. Lastly:

ImageJ is a "work in progress". However, it will allow you to do a number of different forms of image analysis on the Internet as well as evaluate many of your own image results. I cannot praise enough the work that Wayne Rasband has done on this application.