

In this issue (which is nothing like last issue, because we're all about progress) you'll learn about **Alamy Images**, be invited to join our **user advisory board**, and have a chance to **win** a one-year subscription to **Communication Arts** just for being yourself. Please **direct your eyeballs** to the text below.

April Profile: Alamy Images

Alamy Images is a stock photography portal based in Didcot (a little town in Oxfordshire, merry old England). It's been around since 2001 (Alamy, that is; merry old England is much older than that). Monica Hart is Alamy's Marketing Director. When we spoke with her, one topic we talked a lot about was how unique their collection is. So let's start there.

How is Alamy different?

Great images, great technology to get them to customers quickly and easily, and great people.

What makes your image collection unique?

Alamy attracts providers who've never previously been able to afford to sell their work online, as well as leading digital image brand names. This means that customers get access to pictures they'd never otherwise find online, such as the Royal Geographical Society's images of Shackleton's Discovery voyage to the Antarctic. For architectural shots, we have agencies like Arcaid and Arc Blue, not to mention Mary Evans and Popperfoto for vintage and historical shots. Popperfoto also provides us with pictures of the Ryder Cup, Wimbledon Tennis, and other archival sports. Agencies like plainpicture and Apply cover the gritty, real-life customer briefs that are increasingly appearing nowadays. In addition to over 100 of these specialist agencies, we also carry a wide variety of material from 1300 photographers. And we add thousands more every month.

AOC9E8 - This image is popular because it conveys a culture steeped in history and tradition, while also serving as a travel and lifestyle image. The fact that it is model released also opens it up for varied usages.

A2BBB3- This is the kind of anonymous image that customers find appealing for use in varied projects. It's popularity is also down to the fact that is very graphic, impressionistic and generally visually strong.

A2F3CB - A dramatic image of the mushroom cloud, which has become a popular way of depicting fear.

1E2C7 - This shot is an unusual way of illustrating communication. It also highlights the dichotomy between old and new cultures - the aborigine, one of the oldest tribes on earth, using a phone. This image is also model released.

How do you attract such great talent? Alamy's commission rates and submission policies are more flexible than most agencies. We offer photographers and agencies up to 65% of the sale price, and we will take small numbers of images (whereas other libraries have a minimum that they will accept). This makes us a good starting point for young photographers who have a fresh edgy look, as well as more traditional contributors who simply prefer a more flexible set up. We can afford to have flexible terms because we automate the cost-intensive aspects of running an agency through the use of technology and generally keep our costs low.

Tell me more about the great people. Great technology is no good without great people. The company has a strong customer service ethic, and many of the 20 staff members have held senior positions in the industry. Alex Borkiewicz, head of photography, was a senior picture editor at Stone and Alan Capel, head of content, was head of image information at Getty Images.

imagegrabber.com: The sequel.

Coming soon (very soon, like May), you'll see a new and improved version of imagegrabber.com. We're burning the midnight oil (search: exhausted software engineers) to add new functionality, a faster more precise search and, well, you'll just have to wait and see. Right now, it's still in testing.

Did someone say testing? We just did. Anyway, we need a few of you busy talented people to give the new site a sneak preview and let us know if there's any improvements we can make. Please be kind. Actually, be as cruel as you want. We can handle it. Kind of. If you'd like to be part of this elite team, all you need to do is read the next article.

Become a member of the board.

(Our User Advisory Board, that is.)

Join our User Advisory Board and help us make imagegrabber your ideal stock image search tool. We have an ambitious program of product enhancement in the works, and we're looking for periodic advice and feedback from experienced users. All we need you to do is complete a brief profile and indicate how you want to be involved. That's followed by a quick survey on how you search for stock images, and what you think of the current version of imagegrabber.

And, if all this mutual self-interest isn't motivation enough, we're also planning an ongoing program of contests (bribes) to sweeten the deal. This first time out, we're raffling off one free subscription to Communication Arts.

That's all folks.

That's it. That's the newsletter. Hope you enjoyed it. And that maybe you learned something that you can lord over those non-imagegrabber-newsletter-recipients. Until next month, good luck in the contest, and may all your searches be fast and relevant. .Which they will be if you search on imagegrabber.

Contact us

For Sales and Listing Inquiries please contact Melinda Tilston at 416-969-2787 or melinda.tilston@imagegrabber.com .