Adobe products can be pretty awesome for editing images, doing layout, and lots of other stuff! However, they're also really expensive, and depending on what you want to use the program for, or the (lack of) budget you may be working with at an institution, there are some free alternatives that exist.

Images

Pixlr (http://pixlr.com/)

Pixlr is an online image manipulation tool. It runs entirely within your browser! It uses flash and you can create images within the program, and upload images or take them from URLs to edit within the program. Images can be downloaded to your computer in a variety of formats, or just saved directly to Facebook and some other websites.

It's a great option if you're unable to install software on a computer.

GIMP (http://www.gimp.org/)

GIMP (which stands for GNU Image Manipulation Program) is a free, opensource alternative to Photoshop. It doesn't do everything that Photoshop does, but it does do a lot of stuff. It can run on Windows, Mac, and Linux operating systems.

I've seen in installed on computers in public libraries, and been amused that it's called "Image editing" (or something similar) as I guess an icon on the desktop marked "GIMP" might weird some people out...

Layout

Scribus (http://www.scribus.net/canvas/Scribus)

Scribus is a design and layout program that can be used as an alternative to InDesign. Unfortunately it isn't compatible with InDesign files, but it does support a lot of other functions and files can be exported into print ready formats (such as PDF). It's pretty cool!