

# OKKI STUFF

Octaikon educational resources

*Making connexions in life*

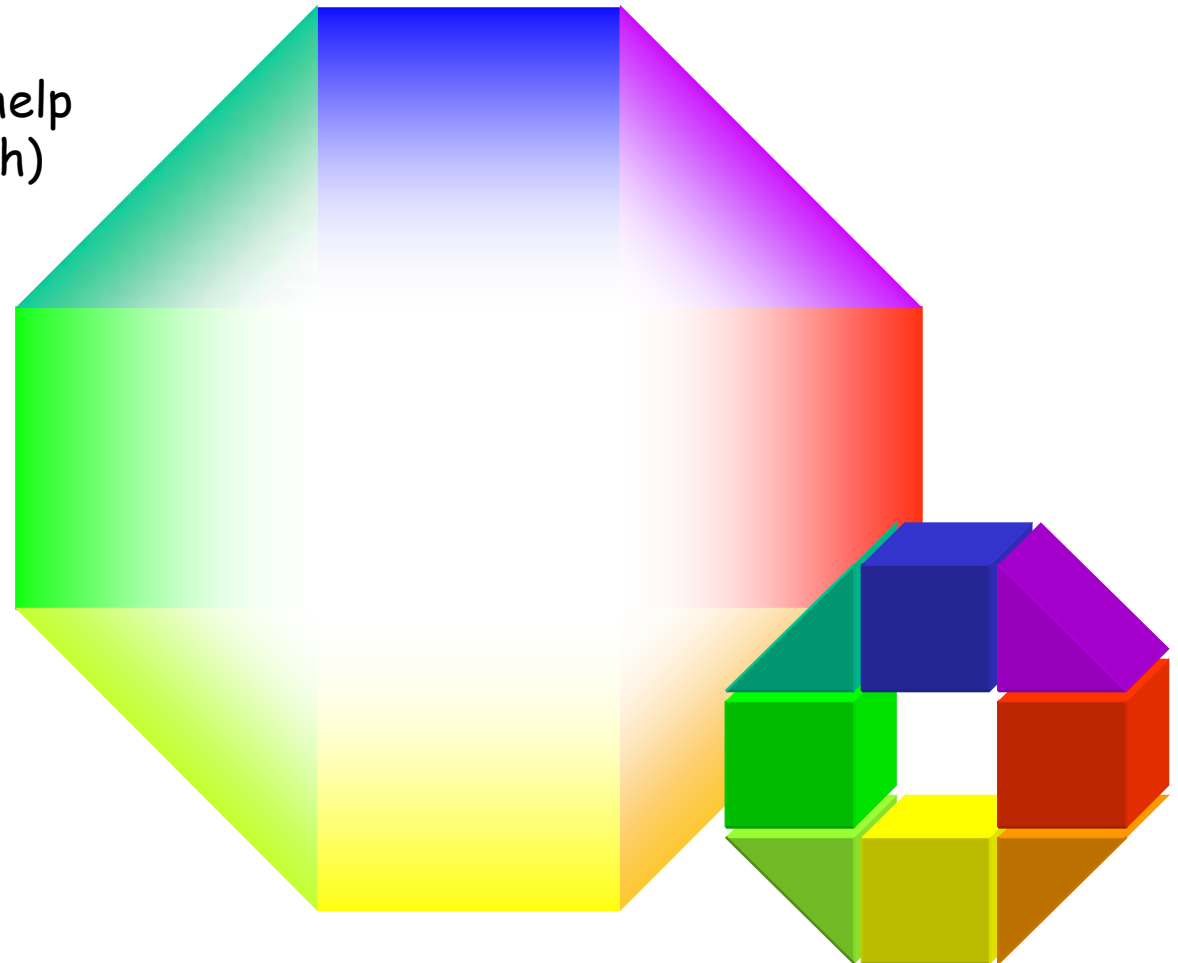
A unique tool and resource  
for personal and community self-help  
(family, school, workplace, church)  
that grows from age to age  
and goes to work from play,  
helping us to understand  
how we connect  
with ourselves,  
with other people,  
and with God.

A. Marcus J. Robbins

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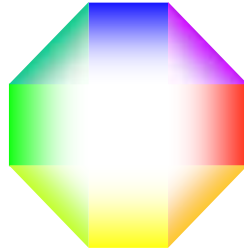


*Draft - version 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009*



# OCTAIKON RESOURCES: *Introduction*

These PDF and PPT files explain the idea of the Octaikon graphic tool and the educational resources that can be developed from it.



The goal of the resources is to introduce people of all types to the diversity of ideas that exist about how we function as persons, how we behave and what we believe, and so help to form better relationships with ourselves, friends, partners, peers, people in general, and God!

Examples are given of a wide range of approaches, forms, topics and settings that will suit all ages and stages in life.

The next 6 pages entitled **OCTAIKON RESOURCES:** introduce the resources.

[A hello from me](#)  
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**List of resources**  
*For links to these PDF files,  
see homepage of website*  
[www.octaikon.co.uk](http://www.octaikon.co.uk)

**The Octaikon model**  
Explanation of ten faculties and how they interconnect.

**Okki @ Play**  
Games for all ages based on the faculties.

**Dr. Okki's Check-up**  
Keywords and questions on how we care for our faculties.

**Okkivista**  
Examples of how faculties help us to connect to real life.

**Okki-maps**  
Ideas and concepts summarised and mapped on the Octaikon.

**E-oc stuff**  
Electronic resources (slides, gifs, pdfs, website)

**Artoc**  
Artistic ideas based on the Octaikon

**Annexes and Bibliography**

**The Octaikon in a nutshell**

**Octaikon islands of life**

# OCTAIKON RESOURCES: *A hello from me*



I hope you enjoy exploring these resources  
and that you will find them useful.

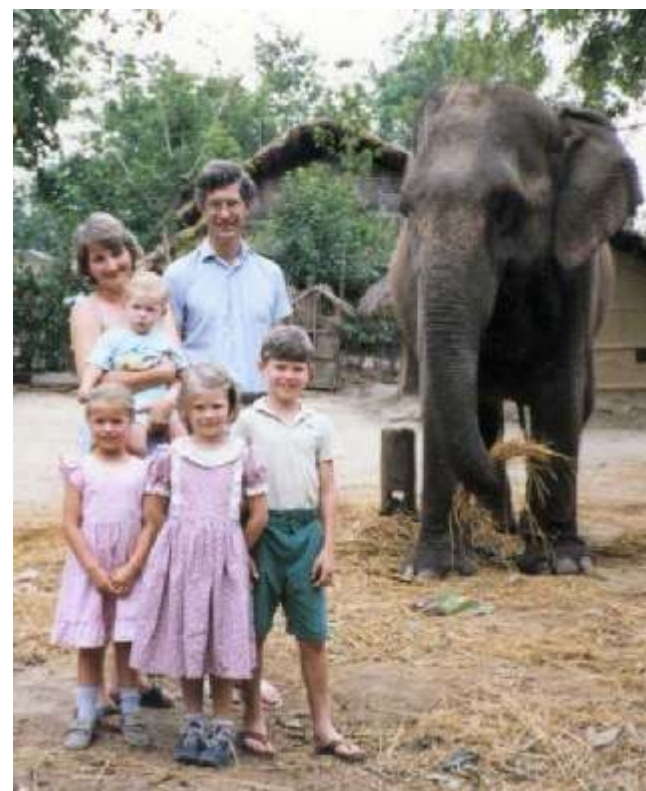
I am originally a forester by profession  
and worked for many years in tropical forests.  
My main expertise is therefore with trees  
and I have a particular interest in seeds.  
I started life as a bit of tree hugger!

However, as life went on  
and helped by my wife and family  
I became more interested in  
the people side of forestry,  
realising that trees are made for people.  
As a result, I embraced  
training and people management.

Throughout my career,  
I learnt not only about trees and people  
but also about God  
through my Christian faith.

As I discovered more about the world  
- physical and spiritual, natural and supernatural -  
lots of questions about life were raised.  
These resources contain part of the answers I found.  
I hope they may help answer some of your questions, too.

Marcus Robbins  
Oxford, 2008



The author and family,  
with observer  
in younger times.  
Nepal 1980s

# OCTAIKON RESOURCES: *My rationale*



Here are some personal thoughts  
that prompted me  
to develop the Octaikon graphic as a tool  
to help people as individuals and communities.

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We all differ in our approaches to life.  
If we could just accept and embrace this diversity,  
we would get on much better in our relationships  
and complement each other.

---

We should not separate  
the spiritual and secular sides of our lives -  
they must be considered together  
and integrated to make us whole.

---

There are many expressions of religious belief.  
All have elements of what is true.  
We need to recognise and celebrate  
where we are agreed,  
as well as understanding why we differ.

---

The divisions within Christianity are a scandal.  
Part of the problem seems to lie in our  
different perceptions of authority and doctrines.  
If we could clarify these,  
there would be more mutual understanding.

There are lots of secular and spiritual ideas  
to help us achieve greater understanding.

There is no need to invent new.

Many have a common thread,  
which can help us learn from them more effectively.

---

We should be ready to share our beliefs with others,  
but it can be difficult.

We can confuse people by our ignorance,  
become embarrassed,

or put people off by being dogmatic or irrelevant.

---

Many people are getting fed up with "religion" or "faith"  
but happy to accept there is a spiritual dimension to life.

We need to explain things better.

---

We don't seem to be doing a good job  
of keeping our children's attention on spiritual things.

We need new and fresh ways  
of explaining ideas and concepts  
that can grow with them.

**So... the main aim of these resources  
is to facilitate understanding  
and help do just that!**

How many of my thoughts ring a bell with you?

# OCTAIKON RESOURCES: *Approaches and forms*



## APPROACHES

The resources take different approaches in the way they can be used, depending on setting and topic.

The following approaches are being explored:

**The Octaikon graphic model of body and soul**, to help explain ten faculties that make us 'work'.

The following resources are based on the model:

### **Okki@play**

A variety of games for all ages to help us think about and use our faculties.

### **Dr. Okki's check-up**

Questions related to the faculties to see if we are looking after ourselves

### **Okkivista**

A way of imagining the world around us in different situations

### **Okki-maps**

The graphic used to introduce and summarise a range of ideas and concepts of how we behave and what we believe

### **Artoc**

The Octaikon transformed into artwork

## FORMS

The resources can be produced in different physical and electronic forms depending on the topic and setting.

### *Physical forms*

*(currently these are DIY - see later)*

### **Laminated printed Octaikon graphic**

Blank for drawing upon - A5 or A4 sizes

### **Wooden 3D Okki-blocs**

for creative play and as an aid for teaching.

### *Electronic forms*

*(either on the internet or on a CD)*

### **Website: [www.octaikon.co.uk](http://www.octaikon.co.uk)**

gives the history of the Octaikon idea and has links to the resources noted below

### **Interactive Octaikon**

A flash movie for young folk explaining the model

### **Okki the Acrobat**

An animated character for primary school children.

### **Powerpoint slides**

of all the ideas or presentations for talks etc.

### **Animated GIFs & JPG/PNG images**

to share on e-mails and mobile phones.

# OCTAIKON RESOURCES: *Topics and settings*



## SETTINGS

The settings in which the resources can be used are many, and cover a wide range of users, ages and situations:

**For individuals,**  
who would like to understand themselves better, and do a bit of self-improvement.

**In families,**  
when parents wish to explain to their children how they function as persons and why we are different from each other.

**In schools,**  
when teachers want to help adolescents understand themselves and their peers better, and how to relate to each other.

**In religious catechesis,**  
when instructors want to explain and visualise the doctrines of faith, and how we relate to God.

**In marriage,**  
when counsellors need to clarify roles and responsibilities, sources of conflict, and how to restore relationships

**In management courses,**  
when trainers want to explain personality theories or problem solving, promoting team working

**In missionary situations,**  
when the evangelizer wants to explain spiritual ideas in an understandable and non-threatening way.

**In communities,**  
especially in developing countries, to facilitate participation and inclusion in social development.

## TOPICS

Any topic that is concerned with how we function, behave or believe could be covered.

Examples found in this guide include:  
*form, colour and balance, creativity, abstract ideas, faculties and abilities, psychological types, management theories, political viewpoints, health and well-being, spiritual enquiries, religious beliefs, Christian living, and Catholic christianity,*

# OCTAIKON RESOURCES: *A note on the text format.*



Phrase-profiling explained. For more information, see [www.marcusrobbins.co.uk](http://www.marcusrobbins.co.uk) and follow the link.

The explanatory text in these resources has been formatted using a technique called "*Phrase-profiling*"

This is a method that I have been developing to make reading, remembering and reference as easy as possible.

It can be described as: "*formatting as if meaning mattered*".

The over-riding principle is that the sense of the text always determines the overall layout of each line and page in the document.

Another term for the technique could be "*Text-mapping*"

Besides making existing text easier to read, this method of formatting also helps to identify and avoid complex grammatical structures when composing new text.

The principles used in "*Phrase-profiling*" are :

*All text is centred.*

\*\*\*

*Each line ends between phrases or sentences so as to enhance the meaning of the text.*

\*\*\*

*The length of each line is kept short.*

\*\*\*

*The lengths of the lines are deliberately varied so as to form wavy edges to the text that are symmetrical and aesthetically pleasing.*

\*\*\*

*A line can be very short if it helps to emphasise a point.*

\*\*\*

- in conclusion -  
the centred text,  
short lines without breaks in phrases,  
and the edge profiles,  
facilitate reading  
by guiding the eye  
down the page.

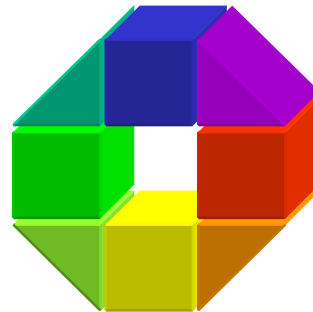
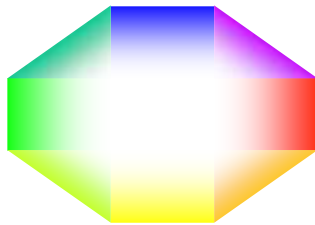
# OCTAIKON RESOURCES: *Doing it yourself*



How to make the various resources (at the moment, physical resources are not available).

## ELECTRONIC DIAGRAMS

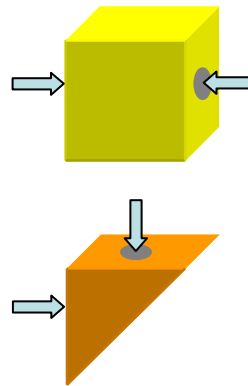
All the pages and diagrams in these guidelines are available as Powerpoint slides. You can re-size, modify and animate the vector drawings and the text so that they can be used in your own presentations  
Contact: [marcus.robbins@virgin.net](mailto:marcus.robbins@virgin.net)



## LAMINATED OCTAIKONS

A blank Octaikon can be printed out at maximum size on A4 paper and then sealed with clear plastic using a laminator for annotating with a whiteboard marker.

Okki-maps and Artoc creations can also be laminated for use as drinks mats, etc. Cut around the eight sides of the diagram, seal, and then cut around away from the paper to ensure a waterproof edge.



## OKKI-BLOCS

Wooden blocks can be made from 44mm x 44mm pine. Carefully saw off cubes using a mitre jig at 90°. Ensure the sides are square and the same dimensions by sanding to size.

Use the mitre jig at 45° to make triangular blocks. Ensure that the square faces are the same dimensions as the cubes.

Sand until smooth, rounding off edges and check that the cubes and triangular blocks all fit together properly.

Make a square tray for the blocks using MDF board, one for the base, onto which is glued another with the Octaikon shape cut out of it using a jigsaw.

If you want to make a self-holding magnetic version buy a set of 16 10mm diameter magnets (8 north pole, and 8 south pole)

Using a dowelling drill, make holes in the exact centre of each adjacent face just a bit deeper than the magnet. Secure with a countersunk-head wood screw adjusting each magnet to be just below the surface of the wood.

Paint the blocks using acrylic poster paints.

# OCTAIKON RESOURCES: *Acknowledgments*



The word 'thank' derives from 'think' according to the Dominican Fr. Timothy Radcliffe in his book *What's the point of being a Christian?* He draws from this fact the profound observation that thanking is thinking truly.

And if I think truly, I must indeed thank the many authors who have written books that have made me think. I love books, and without the ones I have read, I would never have had the ideas and material for this publication.

I must also thank my family and friends who have followed the evolution of my ideas read and thought about what I have written and made suggestions as to how to improve it. You have been very patient and understanding and I am very grateful.

*I dedicate these resources to my parents, parents-in-law, wife and family and especially to a forester friend and colleague Ian Napier.*

