



A Newsletter from the Library Binding Institute

LBI Members Respond To Call for Feedback

During the last 4 – 6 weeks, LBI members have been invited to comment on the organization’s direction in 2008. A bulletin board service was initiated to encourage dialogue.

Five major areas of interest emerged from feedback submitted since mid-December. These include organizational relevance, association name and scope, dues structure, member involvement in the process, and certified library binder definition and recertification.

Relevance

Nearly all members continue to believe in LBI’s relevance as it relates to library

binding and hardcover binding. See article in this issue, “Library Community Affirms LBI Relevance During 2008 ALA Mid-winter Meeting.”



duplicate the efforts of BMI, it is proposed that the newly named organization be called “Hardcover Binders International” with a tag line that says, “High quality books, one book at a time”. The mission of

Association Name and Scope

Research related to changing an association’s mission and scope cautions against trying to serve too many audiences without doing it well. Hardcover binding is where LBI member expertise lies. Based on this and member feedback suggesting that LBI should not

the newly named association is that it exists to serve as a resource to hardcover binders on short-run, print on demand, digital technologies, and other issues of importance to the hardcover binding industry.

Dues Structure

This is clearly of concern, enough to warrant additional research as was suggested by member feedback. Therefore, a brief and confidential survey will be sent to all LBI members via Survey Monkey. One of the questions will ask for CLB annual hardcover binding revenues and total assets. Gathering this data will provide the information necessary to develop an equitable and simplified dues structure. Alternate dues structures/formulas are in the process of being explored. It is in the best interest of all LBI members to provide this information.

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Mark Lovekamp, Bound to Stay Bound, Retires January 4, 2008

Mark Lovekamp was born and grew up in Arenzville, Illinois, a town of a few hundred people 15 miles away from Jacksonville. His dad was the town's GM mechanic and his mom was a cook and ran the Lovekamp Café in Arenzville for many years. He was



in the high school class of 1962, the first class to graduate from Triopia High School. He played basketball in high school but damaged his knees so badly that he had to quit. He worked summers for Schnitker Truck Lines in Arenzville; driving, loading and unloading around central Illinois.

He went to work full-time for Schnitker after graduating from Triopia in June 1962 but left in July 1962 for a job on the night shift at New Method Book Bindery in Jacksonville. He started sanding books for \$1.15 an hour. After a year, he moved to the day shift and started working in the backing area on the right side of the plant, first on the Crawley backer and later on the new Dexter. In 1965, Mark was promoted to supervisor over the departments of Trimming, Backing and Case-making. He then became the foreman over the whole right side of the plant in 1973.

George Hardesty was the new Vice President of Production in 1962 when Mark started at New Method. George was

from Texas and was a former plant inspector for the LBI. George maintained this position until he retired in 1978. The

position was taken over by Jack Fairfield for several years and then, upon Jack's departure for another bindery, Mark took over as Production Manager in 1982. In a reorganization, he also took over responsibility for shipping and processing in 1986. Lawrence D. Sibert was President of the company in 1962 when

Mark started. Robert F. Sibert became President in 1965 when Mark became a supervisor. Finally, Robert L. Sibert was President for the last sixteen years of Mark's career.

One of Mark's coworkers was Kay Pierce and she became Mrs. Mark Lovekamp in 1964. They had two children, Rick and Kim, and they now have five grandchildren. Mark used to hunt as a young man but gave that up years ago. He still fishes quite a bit, often out at Lake Jacksonville where he has had a spot in the Illi-wik-iup Club for many years. He does play a little golf, although Tiger Woods is in no danger of losing his ranking. He follows NASCAR and roots for Dale Earnhart, both senior and junior. Over the summer, he cheers for the Los Angeles Dodgers and, come fall, he follows the Green Bay Packers.

Mark attended his first LBI meeting in Rochester, New York in the fall of 1984. The LBI meeting in Toronto was his first trip out of the United States and his trip to DRUPA in 1995 was his first trip out of

North America. He attended quite a few LBI meetings over the years and served on the Board of Directors in 2006 and 2007.

(Thanks to Bob Sibert for the article and photo.)

American Securities Acquires FiberMark Holdings, LLC

American Securities Capital Partners, LLC (American Securities) and management announced in early January that they have completed the acquisition of FiberMark. FiberMark has seven manufacturing facilities in the U.S., as well as an operation in the U.K. Anthony MacLaurin, President and Chief Executive Officer of FiberMark stated, "We are looking forward to investing with American Securities to further grow FiberMark." American Securities Capital Partners makes equity investments in profitable companies, both privately and publicly held, partnering with existing management teams to increase value in the enterprises.

Something to Think About



"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."

Henry Ford

Membership Involvement

Clearly, members are a critical part of the process. Some have felt it would be best politically for all members to vote on the proposed changes while others are comfortable with leaving it to LBI's elected leaders to move the process forward with member feedback. Members have been informed since the fall conference/hardcover binding seminar of LBI's plans to expand its vision and scope. Information has been posted to the website and in every *Endpaper* since then. Members have been invited to comment via email and a bulletin board. Additionally, they will be given an opportunity to weigh in on a confidential survey issued via Survey Monkey. One individual per LBI member company/institution should have received the survey no later than Tuesday, January 29. The deadline to respond is Monday, February 4.

Certified Library Binder Definition and Recertification

This is an issue of concern to CLB members and Institutional members. It has been and will continue to be articulated as a priority once this initial phase of LBI's new direction is complete.

Board and membership involvement in the process has been critical to the success of moving forward. This combined with informed decision making, due diligence, and leadership will bring LBI closer to realizing its expanded purpose.

Printing and Publishing News

E-Books Put to the Test

In *E-Book Reader Roundup: Will Kindle Catch Fire*, Luke Skurman, College Prowler, puts four of the last e-book models to the test including: The ILIAD (iRex Technologies), The PRS-505 (Sony), The EBOOKWISE 1150 (eBookwise), and The KINDLE (Amazon). For the complete article, go to http://money.cnn.com/galleries/2008/fsb/0801/gallery.ebook_readers.fsb/index.html.

POD On Demand Expo 2008, March 3-6, Boston, MA

Join the more than 10,000 Print-for-Profit,

Corporate In-Plant and Publishing

Professionals who attend each year to learn how to establish, manage, market



and grow their printing business with the latest digital printing technology and automatic finishing solutions. For more information, go to <http://ondemandexpo.com/ondemandexpo2007/v42/index.cvn>.

Event Highlights Include:

Tuesday, March 4th, 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM
InfoTrends' analysts will present a sneak preview of the new products and services that are being showcased by vendors in the on demand space at ON DEMAND 2008. They will provide insight on how these announcements relate to key industry trends. Topics are expected to include Software & Production Workflow Tools, Variable Data, Digital Printing & Solutions, Feeding & Finishing, and Substrates & Consumables. In addition, InfoTrends will create a companion

document to accompany this session. The speakers will also highlight related conference sessions that apply to the breaking news.

Tuesday, March 4th, 2:40 PM - 3:30 PM
Doculabs, Gartner, and InfoTrends present their research findings, completed on behalf of EDSF, in collaboration with the University of Chicago, George Mason, and Rochester Institute of Technology. This panel of industry experts will discuss Data Driven Marketing, Web-to-Print Market and Print-for-Pay Priorities and how to apply their market research to the audience's business development efforts. You have the unique opportunity to dialogue with these experts and address your most compelling business issues against their findings. EDSF routinely conducts market trends and illuminates industry needs and best practices.

Publishing Conference Expo, Book Business, March 10-12, 2008, New York, NY

This major publishing event offers dozens of sessions specifically geared toward book publishing executives, as well as issues unique to magazine publishing. For more information, go to <http://www.publishingbusiness.com/>.

Featured is a keynote address, *Taking on the Giant: How to Meet the Challenges of Leadership*, Monday, March 10, 9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., by Peter Legge, president and CEO of Canada Wide Magazines and Communications Ltd. (the largest independently owned publishing company in Western Canada).

drupa 2008 Ancillary Programs Announced

Visitors to drupa 2008, print media trade fair, can look forward to first-class ancillary programs. Seminars, workshops, talks, individual tours of the trade fair as

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well as special presentations such as the “drupa innovation parc presented by HP” and “drupacube” add up to unparalleled knowledge transfer for international experts. “The ancillary program is a key building block in the overall drupa concept and the ideal complement to the exhibitors’ technology offerings,” said drupa Project Director Manuel Mataré. The program’s individual building blocks are modular, allowing them to be freely combined according to visitors’ interests. “Our priority is achieving a target-group-specific appeal. Print buyers and those on the creative side, for instance, will be in their element at the drupacube while printing and media service providers will be able to ask specific production-related questions on the Highlights Tours. Decision makers will be able to probe new lines of business at the Compass Sessions. drupa has an appropriate answer to every question!” explained Manuel Mataré.

drupacube

With the drupacube, drupa 2008 will for the first time provide a special event aimed at the print buyer target group. Here the spotlight will be on printed products – with one key difference. At drupacube, the focus will be on marketing-driven applications for printed products - the technology that makes this possible will play a secondary role. This gives marketing and publishing directors, production managers, account executives and creative directors the possibility to get a compact overview of the potential of printing in the marketing mix. “With this tool, we intend to attract print buyers to drupa in greater numbers. Undoubtedly, many of the exhibitors also have products catering to this target group. But at a technology trade fair such as drupa, this type of information is often in danger of being overshadowed,” noted Manuel



Mataré. “The drupacube acts as a portal for print buyers by providing concise infotainment on everything concerning print communications and directs them to the exhibitors’ stands.” Symposia and workshops will address the most diverse topics, with each day dedicated to a specific motto. For instance, one day will focus on newspapers and/or magazines, another day it will be on direct marketing, catalogs and corporate communications. Also planned are symposia addressing brand protection, green printing and the relationship between the arts and print. For more information, visit www.drupacube.com

drupa Innovation Parc

With its 160 exhibitors on some 32,000 square feet, the “drupa innovation parc presented by HP” in Hall 7.0 will be the hotspot for new software technologies which open the door to online interfaces and production opportunities for the printing industry. “Following the highly

successful debut at the last drupa, we have optimized the concept and will be offering topic-based visitor guidance,” remarked Bernd Zipper, coordinator of the drupa innovation parc. The following eight theme parks will address the latest forward-looking technologies:

- “printbuyer integration parc powered by AlphaPicture”
- “creative production parc”
- “jdf experience parc powered by Heidelberg”
- “document management parc”
- “pdf + xml production”
- “digital picture parc”
- “online communication parc”
- “print + publishing parc powered by Agfa”

Talks, live demonstrations and daily special events will complement the dip exhibits.

Highlights Tours

In order to give trade visitors an overview of individual industry themes, guided tours highlighting current developments will take place. These topics will range from workflows, Web and print to offset and digital printing as well as packaging production and finishing. The Highlights Tours take visitors to six or eight selected exhibitors on each tour. In addition to German and English, the tours will for the first time also be conducted in Chinese, Spanish and French. In addition, the “Technology Guides” will provide a comprehensive overview of the relevant topic in brochure format. Exact dates for the tours and registration are available online at www.highlightstouren.de

Compass Sessions

The Compass Sessions are two-hour intensive workshops staged daily on topics regarding technology and new lines

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of business in the printing industry. The themes will range from digital/inkjet printing, offset printing, premedia and Web-to-print solutions to digital workflows, printed electronics and packaging printing. Each Compass Session will be devoted to a different theme. Held from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and combined with a light breakfast, they form the ideal start to the drupa day. Further information can be found online at www.compass-sessions.de.

DOXNET on site

DOXNET, the independent European association for digital printing and document manager professional is inviting visitors to the "DOXNET on site" event in the Congress Center Düsseldorf (CCD-East) on June 4. Professor Frank Romano from the U.S. will speak on the latest trends in printing techniques, especially digital printing. Ralf Schlözer (Director of the On Demand Printing & Publishing Service Europe at InfoTrends, the digital printing and document management industry's leading market research and consulting company) will discuss market trends and developments in the field of transpromos. Talks by major European users outside of Germany on the market situation and development opportunities in their relevant countries are also planned. DOXNET President Peter Dehm (T-Systems DDM GmbH) will report on the association's activities and goals.



PEFC Event: Trend Towards Certified Wood and Paper Products

Society's growing concern about environmental and climate issues has led to a step-up in demand for certificates of origin. "Green procurement" – the sustainable acquisition of materials – is experiencing a boom in printing as well. As a result, demand for certified wood and paper products is on the rise. A similar trend is noticeable in the number of PEFC-certified printing operations which increased ten-fold in 2007 to 46. To do justice to this surge in interest, PEFC Deutschland will organize a comprehensive information event at drupa 2008 in the afternoon of June 10. Aside from an in-depth talk, activities will focus on discussions that address the topic from various different angles. Through this forum, PEFC aims to appeal primarily to representatives of the printing industry but also to production managers, advertising experts, publishers, logistics professionals and consultants. A concrete, targeted invitation, outlining the finalized program will be sent out before the start of drupa. The latest information can be found at www.pefc.de



Fourth FSC Global Paper Forum in Düsseldorf

On June 9 and 10, the 4th FSC Global Paper Forum will be staged in during drupa 2008. The forum is an international get-together attended by FSC players from the worldwide paper and pulp sectors who gather to examine market opportunities. Forum discussions, workshops and information on all the latest developments in the FSC paper sector

form part of the event. The following basic themes will be covered:

- Success: good brands on good paper
- Opportunities: bringing together supply and demand for FSC paper
- The impact of FSC certification on forestry, conservation, trade and legislation
- New FSC standards for the chain of custody

Further information can be obtained at www.writingthefuture.org

Print and Media Industry Forum

Current market developments, entertaining panel discussions and the exchange of news and views with colleagues are central to the industry forum that will be staged by the German Printing and Media Industries Federation (bvdM) in cooperation with IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG on June 5 at 6:15 pm. High-caliber representatives of the print and media industry will present views from a range of different perspectives. Participation in the industry forum is free of charge, but those interested are asked to register. It is anticipated that the program and registration form will be available starting February 2008 at www.bvdm-online.de. The forum language will be German.

For further information on visiting or exhibiting at drupa 2008, contact Messe Düsseldorf North America, 150 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2920, Chicago, IL 60601. Telephone: (312) 781-5180; Fax: (312) 781-5188; E-mail: info@mdna.com. Or visit the web site at <http://www.mdna.com>.

LBI Organizes “Staying Alive: Books Through Print-On-Demand Technology” for 2008 ALA Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA

LBI has been asked to organize a session about print-on-demand technology to be held during the 2008 ALA Annual Meeting in Anaheim, California. The session, *Staying Alive: Books Through Print-On-Demand Technology*, is tentatively scheduled to take place from 10:30 am – noon on Saturday, June 28. Following is the description and list of speakers.

Books can be available in a matter of seconds through print-on-demand technology. Librarians can opt for in-house or outsourced versions of this technology. This session will address the print on demand market, who is involved, what publishers are doing, in-house and outsourced print-on-demand options, as well what libraries should consider when binding print-on-demand materials.

Speakers:

Gary Frost, University of Iowa; Kristin McDonough, New York Public Library; Bruce Jacobsen, Bridgeport National Bindery; and Lynn Terhune, John Wiley and Sons.



Library Binding Discussion Group Meeting, January 12, 2008 Summary Meeting Notes Provided by Molly McIlhon, LBS/Archival Products, Co-Chair

32 libraries, 2 certified library binders, 4 supplier representatives, and one LBI representative were in attendance.

1:30 - 1:40 Greeting and Introductions

Laura Cameron, Stanford University, Chair

Molly McIlhon, LBS/Archival Products, Co-Chair

Laura introduced Molly McIlhon as the new co-chair of the group. She went onto give a brief introduction of what the meeting would entail.

1:40 - 2:00 LBI - Update

Debra Nolan, Library Binding Institute

Deb gave an overview of changes in the Library Binding Institute, highlighting the following topics:

- 2007-2008 has proved to be a year of progress for LBI
- The fall conference was largely attended
- LBI had a historic board vote
- LBI is exploring new directions
- The updated Guide to Library Binding is due out soon
- LBI George Cunha and Suzan Swartzburg Award
- Library Binding tool kit for libraries

2:00 - 2:15 Benefits to attending LBI for Institutional Members

Jeanne Drewes, Library of Congress

Jeanne spoke to the group about the benefits to institutional member of attending and joining LBI. She referred to following benefits

- Great access to information
- Networking opportunity
- Affords librarians to talk with library binders
- Werner Rebsaman gives a wealth of information
- Print on Demand (POD)
- Hard Cover Binders
- Open communication/questions/can get answers

2:15 - 3:15 Cover Material Discussion

Follow up from Annual and reports from individuals currently using Book Cloth

Update from Jeanne Drewes on testing at the Library of Congress

Report from Beth Doyle, Duke University (given by Laura Cameron, Stanford University)

Report from Holly Robertson, University of Virginia

- Jeanne updated the group that the testing on Book Cloth is not yet complete, but will be soon. She will share the results with LBS and will find out what she can share with the preservation community

- Jeanne is hoping to propose a change in her RFP to call for performance standards instead of a specific grade of cloth

Laura read through a report by Beth Doyle at Duke University

- Duke did field testing on 98 books covered in Book Cloth
- Overall, the results were good on small to mid-sized books, though F-Grade Buckram is probably better for larger books

Holly Robertson gave a brief report on field testing at University of Virginia

- The U of VA covered 3 books, 1 in Book cloth, 1 in a digicover, and 1 in buckram
- Holly was unable to bring the books to show the results, but after 12-15 circulations, the cloth seemed to be holding up well
- Holly and other would like more information about the book cloth from their binders

There was a lot of follow-up discussion on Book Cloth, including the following:

- Some would like to see the cloth re-named, Book Cloth seems confusing and redundant
- Institutions may be interested in doing their own field testing
- Institutions would like more information about the cloth, including test results and pricing
- Most agree that this could be a good alternative to F-Grade for small to mid-sized books.

3:15 – 3:20 Update from the Publication Committee

Ann Marie Willer, MIT University

Ann Marie gave an update from the Publications Committee and confirmed that “The Updated Guide to Library Binding Standards” would indeed be published before annual, and would likely be out for purchase by April. She also encouraged anyone with information and or questions regarding publication to contact the committee.

3:20 – 3:30 Discussion

Topics for future meetings, possibility of a combined meeting with the Physical Quality and Treatment of Library Materials Discussion Group at Annual 2008 for discussion on - Staying Alive: Books Through Print-On-Demand Technology

The LGDG will combine meetings with the Physical Quality and Treatment Discussion group at the ALA annual meeting so that both groups can attend and discuss the program “Staying Alive: Books through Print-On-Demand Technology”

Laura encouraged everyone in the group to call or e-mail her or Molly with feedback on the following:

- The idea presented at PADG to reduce the number of discussion groups in ALCTS/PARS
- If/When the discussion groups are realigned, what topic ideas would members like to see discussed?



Register Now for ALA Annual Meeting – Early Bird Deadline, March 7, 2008

The early bird deadline for the 2008 ALA Annual Meeting, June 26 – July 2, is Friday, March 7. The hotel room block is filling fast so be sure to book your hotel room in addition to registering for the conference. For more information, go to <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/annual/2008a/home.htm>.

Check out the conference website for details on special events, speakers and other events occurring during the conference. All events below are included in a full conference registration:

Keynote Events

ALA President’s Program

Sunday, June 29, 2008, 3:30-5:30 pm

Opening General Session

Saturday, June 28, 2008, 5:30-7:00 pm

Closing Session

Tuesday, July 1, 2008, 8:00-9:00 am

ALA/ProQuest Scholarship Bash

Saturday, June 28, 2008, 8:00 pm

Exhibits

Saturday, June 28 – Monday, June 30

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Tuesday, July 1

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Library Community Affirms LBI Relevance During 2008 ALA Mid-Winter Meeting

LBI's relevance was repeatedly affirmed during the 2008 ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 11 – 15, 2008, Philadelphia. It is clear that LBI is viewed as an important resource for information on library binding and as a vehicle for professional development and getting questions answered. ALA members are also enthusiastic about LBI's expanded vision and scope.

Jeanne Drewes, Library of Congress, gave a 15-minute talk during the library binding discussion group meeting, about the importance of being an LBI institutional member and the value of her attendance at the fall conference/hardcover binding seminar. As Jeanne put it, "It was extremely valuable for me to be able to talk to the people who make books before they come into the library and to have my questions related to the preservation quality of the materials that go into the making of books answered."

There is also strong interest and support for an LBI organized session to take place at the 2008 ALA Annual Meeting in Anaheim, "Staying Alive: Books Through Print-On-Demand Technology". Speakers for this will include Gary Frost, University of Iowa; Kristin McDonough, New York Public Library; Bruce Jacobsen, Bridgeport National Bindery; and Lynn Terhune, John Wiley and Sons.

A preservation librarian who attended the ALA Book and Paper Committee, upon which LBI serves, also attended the hardcover binding seminar. LBI's efforts with the seminar were raised. The connection of hardcover binding as it relates to the library community was also commented upon.

There is great interest in the library binding toolkit and the updated guide to library binding. This topic was discussed during the Book and Paper committee meeting and a group of folks met during ALA to discuss the toolkits contents, packaging designs, and next steps.

The Book and Paper Committee has asked LBI to organize a pre-conference workshop on library binding for the June 2009 ALA meeting. They see this as an important and relevant topic.

"This is crucial, the fact that a book is a thing, physically there, durable, indefinitely reuseable, an object of value."

- *Staying Awake: Notes on the Alleged Decline of Reading*, by Ursula K. Le Guin, (*Harper's Magazine*, Vol. 316, No. 1983, February 2008, p. 38).

Museums, Libraries, and Archives Urged to Apply for Free IMLS *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf* - Deadline Extended to April 30, 2008

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), in cooperation with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), has extended the deadline for applying for the IMLS *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a core set of books, online resources, and a user's guide that are essential for the care of collections. The bookshelf has received support from the Getty Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. A simple electronic application for the free IMLS Bookshelf is available at www.aaslh.org/Bookshelf.

The IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in libraries' special collections, with an added selection of texts for zoos, aquaria, public gardens, and nature centers. It addresses such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning,

emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues. Recipients of the Bookshelf will also receive a guide with answers to common questions about collections care that can be answered by the Bookshelf. A guide to online resources on collections care has also been prepared by Heritage Preservation (HP), a national non-profit organization working to preserve America's collective heritage. Both documents are available online on the IMLS Web Site at www.imls.gov/collections.

Two panels of experts, convened by HP, made recommendations to IMLS on the contents of the bookshelf. Among the publications selected were *The National Trust Manual of Housekeeping* (published by the British National Trust in 2005), the *Field Guide to Emergency Response* (published by Heritage

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Preservation in 2006), and Essentials of Conservation Biology (published by Primack in 2006).

The IMLS Bookshelf will be awarded free in this last application period March 1 – April 30, 2008, with recipients announced in July 2008. Instructions, qualifications, and the content of the IMLS Bookshelf, along with the online application, can be found at www.aaslh.org/Bookshelf.

Priority will be given to smaller institutions, but large museums and libraries with special collections are also eligible to apply. Federally operated institutions, for-profit institutions, and libraries that do not hold special collections

are not eligible to receive the Bookshelf. For more information on the IMLS Bookshelf, email Terry Jackson at jackson@aslh.org, or call 615-320-3203.

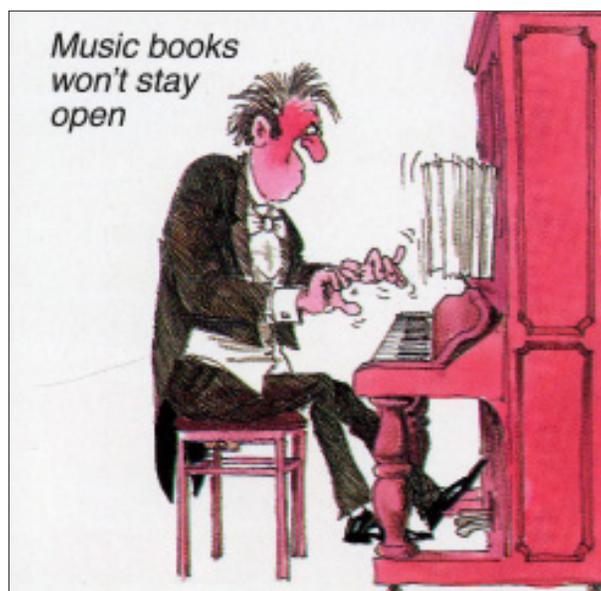
The Bookshelf is part of “Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action”, a multi-year initiative to help improve the care of our nation’s collections. IMLS began the initiative in response to A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America’s Collections, a 2005 Heritage Preservation study supported by IMLS, which documented the dire state of the nation’s collections. See www.ims.gov/collections for more information.

Technical Director’s Report • by Werner Rebsamen

Quality is the Foundation of Library Binding

“Without quality there is no library binding industry, for it is quality which sets our industry apart from all others.” Those were the words of LBI’s former executive director, Dudley A. Weiss to the LBI membership in 1972. William H. Foley, LBI’s former Director of Technology and Quality even went further and said “that the quality control program initiated by LBI had a great impact and that in most instances, honest efforts have been made to deliver only the very best quality. As a fact, so much, that unannounced quality control inspections are no longer necessary.” At the same meeting, aspects of publishers reinforced bindings sold as questionable “library bindings” were discussed as well. Foley also reported that the development of an in-depth technology program has been enthusiastically received by librarians and the Library of Congress. They all have indicated a willingness to cooperate and work with LBI in any way possible. Well, that was 35 years ago but where are we now?

In the fall of 1975, when Mr. Foley retired, this writer was invited to head the LBI technology program. After a successful industry career as a bookbinder and quality control manager of one of the largest book manufacturing facilities, I just started a new endeavor in academia. RIT was known the world over as the leading institute for teaching photography and imaging sciences, including the School of Print Media which had, at the time, over 800 students. My task was to teach all aspects of planning printed products and converting them into a marketable form, most of it which involved binding or other aspects of print-finishing. In cooperation with LBI and Dudley A. Weiss, we set up the LBI/RIT Book Testing laboratory, a very personal initiative of Dudley’s. The purpose of this was to test current and future methods of binding and materials. This



Binders need to take into consideration the end-use purpose.

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laboratory soon had a world-wide reputation, mainly due to the many articles written in trade journals and exposure to our students and industry seminar participants. Those industry seminars included publishing production managers, librarians, book manufacturers, and material suppliers. We had many visitors who wanted to visit this unique laboratory. I remember one European group, who called from New York City, and wanted to see the laboratory in the afternoon. Although they were disappointed to find out a flight to Rochester, NY, took more than one hour, they still visited a few days later.

What is bookbinding quality?

Anytime we evaluate the quality of a product, we not only focus on its manufacturing quality but also take into consideration the end-use purpose and its requirements. It is the user who determines whether or not a product is suited for a specific application. Take a bound book. What good is it to have a "strong" music book binding when it does not stay open by itself? For these reasons, each task for binding must be evaluated by its final features. In all quality control procedures, we search for ways to measure it. We need physically variable features, which can be measured, counted or verbally evaluated like the type of binding and materials selected, life expectancy, handling features, and aesthetics. What good is it if we have a book, over 2 inches thick, which does not feature at least a rounded shape? This flat back book will concave in the spine and protrude out front. That could cause serious internal damage to the binding. The current ANSI/NISO/LBI Standard for library binding takes such factors into consideration. Further efforts could be made. Following are possible measurements of resistance in using a bound book which will be reviewed in an upcoming *ShelfLife* article:

- Stability of the connection between the book block and the book case
- Stress factors
- Book spine stability
- Opening capabilities
- Abrasion resistance of the covering materials used
- Aging characteristics

Now, some of our readers wonder, why do we get back to aspects of quality when "everything seems to be o.k.?" Good question. Quality is no issue with certified library binders. They know what

their customers expect and they follow the specification. Problems occur when the strict specifications for library bindings and deliberately by-passed with short-cuts to come up with a lower price. This was and still is an on-going battle. Perhaps the worst incident this writer has ever experienced in this respect was a binding establishment which, in their opinion, offered library bindings "bound in accordance to LBI standard." The books were sold as oversewn but came apart when circulated in the libraries. When the bindings were examined, there was no evidence of oversewing. As a fact, word has it this binder did not even have an oversewing machine! What they did furnish was a so-called saw-kerf binding which means a saw cuts slanted grooves into the bindfold. Into those slots, a string is inserted and glued-off the spine. Needless to write, such a binding technique used on oversized newspapers does not last long on books, especially if heavy, coated papers must be bound. Again, I must come back to the beginning. LBI's efforts have been successful mainly due to superior, quality bindings and a most valuable Standard that supports our endeavors.

A personal comment to the proposal of a new binders group

At the Springfield meeting, I mentioned to Fritz James that I did introduce on-demand printing and binding to the members of LBI at a Scottsdale, AZ meeting. I could not remember the year but was aware that Fritz had to go home due to the birth of his daughter. Fritz laughed and said: "Werner, that daughter is now 28 years old!" During this meeting, library binders expressed concerns about declining business with traditional library binding. I then did try to make members aware of great, new opportunities on the horizon. How some of our business changed was demonstrated during the Springfield meeting at the Bridgeport National Bindery.

Members of LBI can be proud of what they have accomplished and this should never change or being challenged. The previous chapter on quality says it all. Where we do have a problem is the declining membership, which soon will no longer allow us to have an executive director capable of communicating our efforts to present and prospective clients. In addition, our semi-annual meetings are in jeopardy as suppliers who generously support

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Executive Director's Report

by Debra S. Nolan, CAE



"When launching any new idea in business, people need to understand that there are a dozen paths it could go down. Like military generals say, the war plan lasts only as long as the first battle. The same in business. Plans for new initiatives will change in three months. That doesn't mean

it's not the right path to go down. Just don't expect the same outcome you predicted two years ago. That's just not the real world." –David Silverstein, CEO and President of Breakthrough Management Group

The above quote can be found in the article, "Building Ideas from the Ground Up", by Lynda McDaniel, in the *2008 Volunteer Leadership Issue* of "Associations Now" magazine. Throughout the article, she discusses the challenge of discomfort and uncertainty that accompany innovation. To deal with this effectively McDaniel suggests the following:

Accept Change – The status quo never leads to innovation.

Match Your Missions – The new initiative should be in synch with your association's mission.

Talk Among Yourselves – Get to know fellow board members and staff.

Vent Early and Often – Known objections can be overcome, so voice concerns early on.

Think Big – Take your innovation to the next level.

Act Small – Develop steering committees and task forces to accomplish more.

Connect Often – Communicate regularly.

Keep Learning – Learn from mistakes.

I applaud the LBI Board of Directors for leading the organization to expand its vision and scope. Members, please know your feedback is being thoughtfully deliberated and folded into the planning process. More input is needed from you on the association name and dues structure. I encourage all members to take the opportunity through the LBI member survey, distributed via Survey Monkey, to provide more specific input on these subjects. The survey will be sent to one individual from each LBI member organization/institution. The deadline to respond is Monday, February 4.



LBI in 2008 - Reinvention and Rejuvenation!

Technical Director's Report
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such events no longer see an incentive to participate. Simply said, there is no ROI for them and their superiors will turn down their requests. So what should we do? For some time, we discussed mergers or adding another group of interested binders.

The mergers did not work out and new proposals were vague and unacceptable. In a historic vote, the board of directors approved the investigation and consideration of a separate group. All along, I personally insisted, that such an endeavor should never interfere with our traditional activities as library binders. This group always needed to be a separate item and should be open only to those who qualify as certified library binders. The fact is, we are good at binding one book at a time. We developed special machinery, gadgets and computerized systems for such tasks. However, times have changed and we need to adapt. Talk to any

of our suppliers. They now sell most of their tools to non-library binders. In other words, new binding establishments are coming into "our territory" like mushrooms. They are all eager to learn more about binding books on demand. Now we have a great opportunity to bring them under our umbrella as a very separate group. Many different names have been suggested and some LBI members expressed concerns that such titles interfere with endeavors by other groups. I myself would like to see a title that clearly does identify those newcomers. A title like: "**Digital-Print-Bookbinders Association**" would say it all. Digital printing is new and growing. But digital printing is also used for many other tasks such as labels and posters. Therefore, our endeavor, which is binding books, needs to be identified. By moving into digital printing, we will get the support (as

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experienced at the Springfield meeting) from big companies, like Xerox, HP, Océ, Xeikon, and others. We have an opportunity to organize not only on-demand but photo book printing and binding establishments as well. A secondary group under the same umbrella will not only allow us to conduct worthwhile meetings, it also will get the support of many new suppliers. Best of all, such joint meetings will most likely generate lots of new business for conventional library binders. Why? During such get-together events, the tasks of binding books will generate discussions, friendships and some will realize that a library binder is better equipped to take-on some of their tasks for binding.

For example, take a digital printer that offers only soft-cover bindings. Occasionally they do get requests for hardcover bindings..... well, need I say? For me, this does not matter so much as I'm at an advanced retirement age. But, after all those decades of being involved with this unique group of dedicated library binders, all I can say is, do not miss this great opportunity!

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