

# The Endpaper

NOVEMBER 2009

A Newsletter from HBI and the Library Binding Institute



**Hardcover  
Binders  
International**  
Library Binding Institute

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## Perfect Books and Plenty of Networking in Park City!

Eighty-five library binders, book manufacturers and industry suppliers met in Park City, Utah, October 22 – 24, for the HBI/LBI Fall Conference and “Perfect Books, One Book at a Time” seminar to network, participate in bindery tours, and learn about developments within the industry.

The conference began on Thursday, October 22 with a board of directors meeting, followed by the new members and first timers’ orientation, and the opening welcome reception. Those attending the orientation had an opportunity to introduce themselves and ask questions about the association. The welcome reception provided an opportunity for connecting with colleagues in a relaxed setting.

The bindery tours on Friday, October 23, gave attendees a glimpse of operations at Utah Bookbinding and Rastar. At both facilities, there were opportunities to view the equipment and employees in action as well as ask questions. Lunch was served at Utah Bookbinding and Mark Hancock, HBI/LBI president introduced his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hancock, who started the bindery.

Dinner that evening was held at a local steakhouse, the Grub Steakhouse. This allowed for additional networking opportunities among the group.

### *Also in this Issue...*

- Memories from the 2009 Fall Meeting
- Highlights from the HBI/LBI Membership & Board Meetings
- Book and Paper Interest Group
- ALA Midwinter Meeting
- Technical Director’s Report
- Executive Director’s Report
- Something to Think About

The “Perfect Books, One Book at a Time” seminar on Saturday, October 24, offered presentations on a number of topics related to industry developments and trends.

The speakers included:

Mark Hancock, Utah Bookbinding  
Professor Werner Rebsamen, HBI and the  
Library Binding Institute  
Chuck Cline, Binding Solutions  
Franz Landen, Ribler GmbH  
Richard Allart, Muller Martini  
John Jacobson, On Demand Machinery  
Michelle Weir, HP  
Vincent Reilly, Xerox  
Dennis Soucy, Océ  
Paul Parisi, ACME Bookbinding  
Shawn Pearsall, Productive Solutions

Keynote speaker, Paul Gardner, Rastar Digital Marketing, Inc., delighted everyone with his observations of the industry. The day also included table top exhibits, supplier presentations, and roundtable discussions which further allowed for conversation and learning.

Feedback on the meeting was overwhelmingly positive. One attendee noted, “It was great to be a part of the event & to make such wonderful connections.” Another indicated, “I have learned some things that I think could help my company become more competitive in this arena.”

For more information about the event, or future HBI/LBI conferences, please contact the office at 561-745-6821 or [dnolan@hardcoverbinders.org](mailto:dnolan@hardcoverbinders.org).

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One Book  
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Park City, Utah  
October 22-24, 2009



## Highlights from the HBI/LBI Board of Directors Meeting October 22, 2009

### Motions Passed Included:

- Approval of the April 24, 2009 Board meeting minutes as amended
- Approval of the July 17, 2009 Board meeting minutes as presented
- Approval of the September 2, 2009 Board meeting minutes as presented
- Approval of the proposed 2010 Budget

### Discussion Items Included:

- Membership totals 74; seventeen new members in the last year
- The 2009 financials
- 2009 Spring and Fall meeting attendance
- Recognition of Paul Parisi for his work with the Photo Book Standards working group
- Discussion of HBI's representation on the Photo Book Standards working group
- Recognition of Suzanne Wiersma for her work on the proposed bylaws changes to be presented at the October 23 membership meeting
- Recognition of Laura Cameron and the library binding toolkit task force for their work on and completion of the Library Binding Toolkit
- The ANSI/NISO/LBI Standard which is up for renewal in January 2010
- Testing procedures and the recertification process
- The association website which will be transitioned to a platform with increased functionality
- HBI/LBI's involvement in ALA including Preservation Standards & Practices Committee membership and co-authoring a 2010 annual meeting session with Gary Frost entitled, "Strategic Future of Print Collections in Research Libraries"
- The 2010 spring and fall meeting locations

## HBI/LBI Membership Meeting October 23, 2009 Proposed Bylaws Changes Pass

On Friday, October 23, in Park City, Utah, the HBI/LBI membership approved the amended bylaws document proposed by Suzanne Wiersma, Bylaws Committee chair, in consultation with retired committee chair Bruce Jacobsen of Bridgeport National Bindery and Ann Guiberson, Registered Parliamentarian. These amended bylaws were circulated to the board of directors and membership prior to the meeting. The complete up-to-date amended bylaws have fixed several items, revised some for clarity and added new items to better define how the association is to function. A number of provisions were also put in place to better define the election process, terms, vacancies and meetings. There is a notable change to Article VIII where the power to amend the bylaws is vested in the members of the corporation rather than in the board of directors. In addition to administrative updates, the changes include:

- The addition of an active international membership category in the Hardcover Binders division for members residing outside North America
- Revised the membership quorum to 30% (from 40%) and added provisions for absentee ballots and written or electronic ballots
- Under Board of Directors' composition, added "may include one Associate Member" and "may include one Active Member of the Hardcover Binders Division"
- Altered the power to amend the bylaws by transferring this power to the membership rather than the Board of Directors

For a complete copy of the amended bylaws document, please contact the office at 561-745-6821 or [dnolan@hardcoverbinders.org](mailto:dnolan@hardcoverbinders.org).

Book and Paper Interest Group  
ALA Midwinter, Boston MA  
January 16, 2010 (Saturday)  
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm.  
Marriott Copley Place, Nantucket Room

#### Agenda

1. Update on the Library Binding Tool Kit
2. LC permanence of recycled paper--update on current investigation (<http://www.loc.gov/preserv/rt/projects/recycled.html>)
3. Research on PUR Adhesives for Use in Library Binding – Brian Baird
4. Budget Impact on Workflows, Sharing Creative Ideas/Solutions
5. Ideas for Annual 2010
  - Preservation Week and May Day Initiatives--sharing ideas for creative ways to mark these dates
  - Using Social Media and Web 2.0 for Outreach, Education and Promotion

ALA Midwinter Meeting  
Boston, MA  
January 15-20, 2010  
Meeting Room Locations

If you would like the complete schedule of the ALA Midwinter Meeting room locations, please contact the HBI/LBI office at 561-745-6821 or [dnolan@hardcoverbinders.org](mailto:dnolan@hardcoverbinders.org).



**Hardcover  
Binders  
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Library Binding Institute

If you have access to a manual for an OMC Book Sander that dates from the 20's, please contact Bill Grimm, Grimm Bindery, [bill@grimmbindery.com](mailto:bill@grimmbindery.com).

## Technical Director's Report *Werner Rebsamen*



### Testing Hardcover Bindings with an All New UBT

After testing books for 25 years at the LBI/RIT book-testing laboratory, I developed a good sense of what kinds of tests are best for checking the structural integrity of various hardcover bindings. My favorite gear for testing hardcover books was always the Universal Book Tester. This testing machine, developed in the 1960's by the Barrow laboratories for ALA, used to be the foundation to evaluate library bindings.

As everyone is aware, library bindings meet or exceed the industry's toughest standards. The LBI/RIT laboratory received great coverage in the press, especially for its reputation as a vital part of industry education, such as the BMI and the RIT Print-Finishing seminars. Thousands of industry people and, of course, our students,

were exposed to live demonstrations on how books and bindings are evaluated. Those industry people down in the trenches often inquired about where to purchase such a UBT testing device. Unfortunately, my answer was always – “sorry, it is not commercially available.”

The Barrow laboratories built a few of these testing machines and when the funds ran out, this was the end of the ALA library binding testing project. The remaining UBT testing machines were then purchased by a large

*Continued next page*

library binder, who used them for in-house evaluations of their own bindings. One large Canadian book manufacturer sent an engineer to our book-testing laboratory to chart-down all critical measurements. They then built their own UBT book-testing machine but never offered them to others.

The Moffett Precision Products Company is a well-known supplier of adhesive binding testing machines. Their tensile page-pull and flex testing machines can be found in bookbinding facilities all over the world. They play an integral role in any quality control endeavor. In my opinion, no bindery or book manufacturing facilities can afford to be without testing tools such as these.

Many binders are also familiar with Moffett's high-speed side-sewing equipment. I recently had the pleasure of corresponding with Dan Moffett and shared all of my UBT experiences with him. Dan recognized the need for a UBT testing device. Several book manufacturers and hardcover binders had asked for it. Dan and I had much dialogue about improvements of the original UBT design. Best of all, he took all of my suggestions seriously and incorporated them into his UBT design. For example, we had to tie strings around the trays to prevent the sliding books to be tested from falling out of the trays. Dan designed a small, extending edge, and with it, the books remain in the trays. Our LBI/RIT UBT testing device had a screen spot-welded into place. That screen failed in no time.



*The all-new UBT book-testing device by Moffett. Different trim-sizes require different trays.*

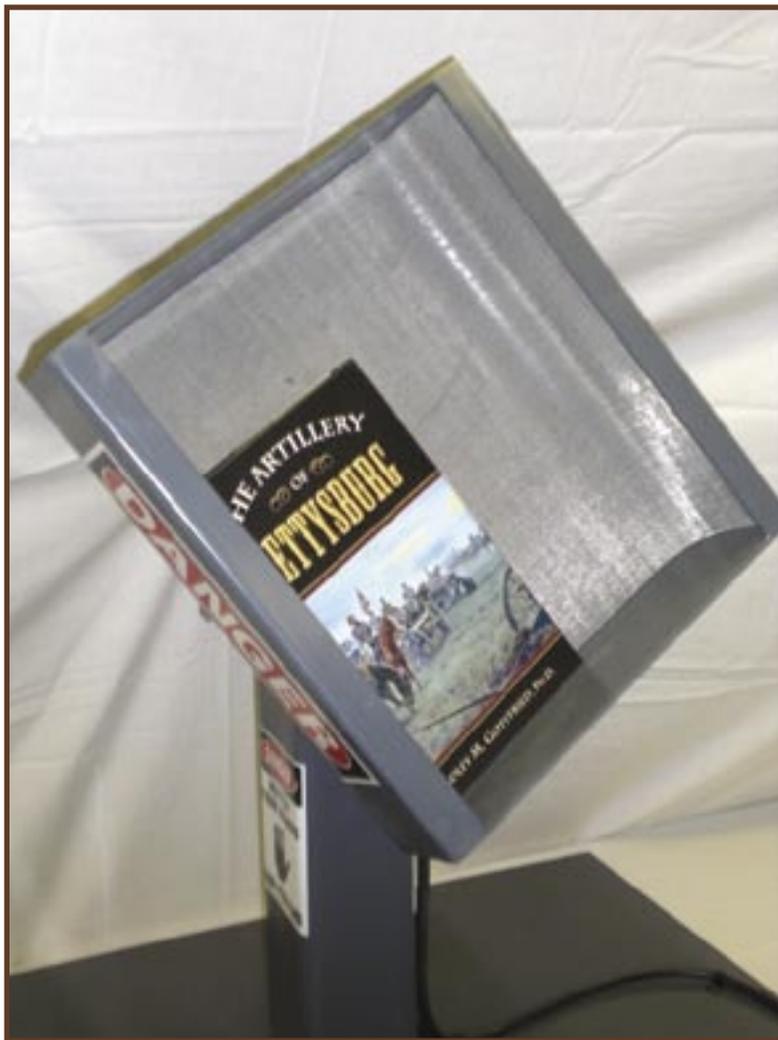
Dan Moffett found an adhesive to secure the screen. Another difficult task was changing trays for different book dimensions. On the original design, that was one heck of a job which often required an additional person. Dan's design lets you change the trays with ease by yourself.

Now you may ask "what does a UBT testing device evaluate?" When NASTA / BMI developed text book standards, they relied on a tumble testing device. As published, we found these tumble tests to be very erratic. With tumble tests, we were never able to pin-point a specific item that could be improved. That is why ALA engaged an engineer to develop a more sensitive book-testing device. It took years to develop this "end-user" testing device called "Universal Book Tester." On many testing projects, we could simulate actual end-usage. In other words, books which circu-

*Continued next page*

lated in a school environment for two years showed certain defects. These could be loose joints, book blocks which detached from the cover, split bindings, and severe cover-material abrasion. Our UBT came up with the same results in approximately 30 minutes! By using a UBT testing device, a bookbinder/book-manufacturer is able to evaluate certain reinforcement techniques and the performance of materials.

As stated, a UBT book-testing device is perhaps the very best tool to do R&D studies for improvements. It could save you money as well. For example, you may test cloth reinforcement against a strong paper and then find out that the end-use performance is equal.



*Note the clever design changes. No books will fall out of the trays when tumbling.*

This will make you more competitive and, best of all, ensure quality. You no longer have to wait until a specific binding circulates for years and then shows a certain weakness. In other words, a UBT testing machine will aid you in improving hardcover binding structures and compare various materials and techniques used.

There are no standards for such tests. A published document on text-book manufacturing lists on page 24 that one hour of UBT testing represents light usage, 2 hours median usage and 3 hours heavy usage. Such published statements confused certain quality control people. After some investigation, it turned out that these unfortunate guidelines came from someone's

PowerPoint presentation and that the data used was not based on actual experiences. The fact is, if we test a light-weight book with a slippery, laminated cover, it will take hours until damages are visible. If we test a 9 lb. heavy, cloth bound book with coated paper stock, it may take only minutes until some internal damages will show up. Therefore, when UBT testing we must compare apples to apples. A heavy book must be visually checked perhaps every five minutes and the progress reported. A light-weight book maybe checked only every half hour. The weight and shape of a specific hardcover binding will determine the forces exerted during a four-way impact.

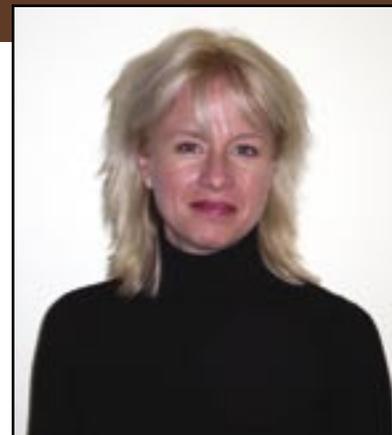
In a future issue of *ShelfLife*, I will write a more detailed article and list all the critical aspects of testing hardcover bound books with a UBT.

For further information on this reasonably priced UBT book testing machine, contact Moffett Precision Products, Inc., [www.moffettprecision.com](http://www.moffettprecision.com), 715-462-3353.

Best of all, Dan Moffett recently joined HBI/LBI. Welcome Dan!

# Executive Director's Report

*Debra S. Nolan, CAE*



Making decisions to move forward in a down economy is like walking 50 feet on a foot-wide platform from one six story building to the next, without a net. You can see the end result and the path seems wide enough. If you don't walk forward, you will be left behind, and, if you fall, it probably won't kill you but you may break a few bones.

The leadership demonstrated by this association's board of directors continues to evoke a sense of pride and humility as tough decisions to move forward are made, despite the economic downturn. Cautiously optimistic, the board chooses to focus on the association's growth and membership potential, while at the same time fulfilling the current needs of members in a deliberate and intentional manner.

This is exemplified in a number of ways including the recent decision to transition the website to a platform with increased functionality. Although there is a moderate cost associated with this, the leadership recognizes the value of connecting the membership database with this platform, which will allow for increased member benefits including unique login information to a members' only section. This system will allow for the ability to renew one's dues, join the association, and register for conferences online. It will also allow for the creation of membership listservs as well as email blasts to current and potential members.

Another decision recently made was to hold a spring meeting in conjunction with another industry meeting. There are two opportunities being explored including the

Digital Image Marketing Association conference, February 19 – 20, Anaheim, CA, <http://www.pmai.org/dima/>, and the O'Reilly Tools of Change Conference, Feb 22 – 24, New York City, <http://www.toccon.com/toc2010>. This decision was made in recognition of the desire, by some members, to meet more than once a year, combined with the fact that budgets are tight and more justification for travel may be required. By tagging onto an existing industry meeting, the association would also be at little to no risk given there are already established room blocks in place for these industry meetings. Please stay tuned for more information which will be available soon.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the leadership and participation of the membership and HBI/LBI's technical consultant, Werner Rebsamen. Through conference presentations and meeting attendance, and by encouraging others to join, this advocacy and support helps to facilitate the association's relevance and growth.

Although there may not be a net below the foot-wide plank, please know I am right there with you. Together, we'll make it to the other side and beyond.

## *Something to Think About*

*"To truly lead, you have to create new markets, and that takes time, which makes it tough to pay the bills. You also have to serve the needs of the present."* – Rebecca Rolfes, "A Perfect Pair", *Associations Now*, November 2009.