IFLA PRESENTS

Binding as conservation: practices, evolution, and challenges for the future

Bookbinding Practices 2022 Survey Results

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Vicki Lee - National Archives and Records Administration, USA
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National Library of France (BnF)
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National Archives and Records Administration
Bookbinding Practices

2022 Survey Results
Céline Allain

National Library of France (BnF)
Presentation plan is as follow

Céline Allain
- Methodology of the survey
- Bookbinding policies
- In-house and outsourced practices

Vicki Lee
- Treatment practices
- Conclusion
Methodology
Geographic distribution of responses
Distribution of libraries

- 9; 33% Academic and research library
- 9; 33% National library
- 4; 15% School library (i.e., non-University)
- 4; 15% Special library (e.g. art, business, law, etc.)
- 1; 4% Public library
Preservation and conservation strategies

- It is not in fact only a question of a number of books binded per year but rather according to what principles these choices are made.
Bookbinding policies

- Maintenance and repair: From 75 to 100 (31), From 50 to 74 (24), From 25 to 49 (27), From 0 to 20 (18)
- Improving handling and patron usage: From 75 to 100 (27), From 50 to 74 (46), From 25 to 49 (18), From 0 to 20 (9)
- Stabilization prior to digitization: From 75 to 100 (9), From 50 to 74 (39), From 25 to 49 (43), From 0 to 20 (9)

Bar charts show the distribution of bookbinding policies across different categories.
Bookbinding policies

Evolution of bookbinding volumes over the 5 years
- Increased: 23%
- Decreased: 77%

Use of enclosures as an alternative to bookbinding
- Yes: 24%
- No: 76%
Factors of influence of bookbinding

- Budget, binding cost, low acquisition level
- Switch to digital
- Vendors, supply difficulties, pandemic
- Lack of staff, qualification of staff
- Shift in collection management activities
- Bookbinding is not adapted to the collections

1st factor: 19, 15, 12, 8, 23, 18, 2
2nd factor: 27, 20, 9, 9, 23, 18, 6
3rd factor: 40, 12, 18, 23, 18, 34, 6
Treatment definition by a trained personnel

- A collections curator: 31%
- A book conservator: 27%
- A book binder: 29%
- A binding preparation unit: 11%
- An outside body: 2%
In-house versus outsourced

- Libraries use external service providers to carry out their bookbinding work, exclusively or in combination with internal workshops.
- The reasons for these choices are quite difficult to assess.
In-house Bindery staff

- None or less than a full time: 33%
- 1 full time: 15%
- 1.5 to 2: 15%
- 3 to 5: 15%
- 6 to 11: 15%

Activities of the binding unit

- Binding: 62%
- Identification and preparation of materials for binding: 17%
- Recording of all materials requiring binding: 17%
- Specification of the style of binding, lettering and special instruction to the binder: 4%
## Selection and satisfaction criteria

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Overall Rank</th>
<th>Rank Distribution</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality of work</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>138</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delivery time</td>
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<td></td>
<td>79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geographic proximity</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fix schedule of delivery</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length of time practicing</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport conditions (equipment...)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Habit</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Overall Rank</th>
<th>Rank Distribution</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality of treatment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compliance with the order</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
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<td></td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline compliance</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Detractors: 39%
Passives: 33%
Promoters: 28%
Vicki Lee
Preservation Officer,
National Archives and Records Administration
Treatment Practices for Special and Heritage Collection

- Standard, frequent
- Standard, occasional
- Irregular
- Never

Handbinding vs Industrial
Treatment Practices for General Collection

- Standard, frequently
- Standard, occasional
- Irregular
- Never

Handbinding vs Industrial
Binding Treatments

Recase

- Recase, standard
- Recase, occasionally
- Recase, irregular
- Never

New Case

- Standard
- Frequently
- Irregular
- Never

Heritage and General categories are represented.
Binding Treatments

Lapped Case

Limp Paper or Vellum

Used | Never used | Not sure
--- | --- | ---
Heritage | General

Used | Never used | Not sure
--- | --- | ---
Heritage | General
Rebacking Treatments

Cloth Reback

Leather Reback
Rebacking Treatments

Japanese Paper Reback

Hollow Tube or V-Hinge Reback
Security Methods

Anti theft, RFID

Signature label

Stamping

- Heritage
- General
THANK YOU