

JOURNAL BINDING SEWN OR UNSEWN? FACTFILE

INTRODUCTION

With the sophistication of today's adhesives, the unsewn method of journal binding is again under scrutiny. The unsewn method has in the past been dismissed out of hand because of the perceived weakness of such a binding.

Perhaps another look at what is on offer is worthwhile

In the USA and Germany much investigation has taken place over the last few years and certain adhesives are now recommended as being most suitable for binding even shiny clay faced paper. We at Blissett Bookbinders have made a study of the new adhesives and sophisticated spine preparations and now offer what we consider to be a practical and lower cost unsewn binding.

WHY BIND JOURNALS?

Traditionally journals have been bound as a security measure to save shelf storage space and for ease of access to the information they contain. This is still the case today despite the introduction of other storage media and a vital core of information still demands to be accessed in hard copy presentation.

Today, security is **even more VITAL** as it is difficult and expensive to replace issues or articles if lost or damaged.

SO THE LONG TERM ECONOMIC METHOD IS STILL BINDING

BINDING METHODS

Please find below the answers to some of your current journal binding questions, but it is important for you to know that your options are largely dependant upon your use pattern and the manner in which your journal was initially published as well as your intended retention period.

Q. Which options are open for binding journals which will receive heavy use?

A. A journal produced in a single folded section:

Unless advert removal precludes this format, then 'section sewing', where threads are passed through the fold in the centre of each issue, is the best and most secure way of binding. This would allow for heavy and prolonged use while the rebinding potential is not lost as inner margins are not reduced. Maximum ability to open for photocopying is gained.

A journal produced in single sheets:

This would be a glued journal or one from which adverts have been removed. Such a journal can be bound by the 'oversewn' method that uses the same thread and reinforcing materials as the section-sewn method. However, in this case the thread is driven through the pages as opposed to through the folds at the spine.

The life expectancy of volumes bound by this method is the same as section sewn volumes, perhaps the only disadvantage being the lack of flexibility in opening in some cases for photocopying and slight loss of spine margin.

Q. What options are there for journals which will not receive heavy use?

A. Both the above options of section sewing and oversewing are available, but volumes **NOT** likely to receive prolonged heavy use, or indeed volumes which will get treated with respect e.g. normally photocopied by a professional librarian, can benefit from the 'unsewn' method regardless of its initial manner of production.

Using the very latest in adhesive technology and spine preparation, even heavy 'glossy' journals can be effectively bound and the result is largely indistinguishable from the traditional methods.

Good page security is gained and excellent openability should reduce the strain that can sometimes be put on oversewn journals particularly when being photocopied. There is less emphasis put into traditional spine reinforcement, but for a journal more likely to be discarded after, say ten years, then the advantages and potential savings are worthwhile.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion we would draw your attention to the benefits to be gained with 'UNSEWN' journal binding for **SELECTED** journal material.

We do stress **SELECTED** journals because it is clear there are certain **DISADVANTAGES** with the unsewn journal and we consider this information should be brought to your attention **BEFORE** you commit yourself to a course of action you may later regret.

We have been experts in the field of journal binding for many years and would be happy to provide you with more information or samples on request.

Clearly, there are also other methods by which you may have had journals bound. We would be happy to provide similar styles and only ask that you speak with us and communicate your preferences. We are always open to new ideas!

Please contact your Binding Consultant or Gary Blissett on

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Established in 1920, Blissett Bookbinders provides a full binding service to Public, Academic and Research Libraries throughout the U.K. We work very hard to ensure our goal of providing our customers with value for money, high quality and good service. We have established transport arrangements in your area and can supply regular collection and delivery schedules on request. Expect a regular 4-week turnaround.

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