

News

The Iowa Cooperative Preservation Consortium — *by Nancy Kraft*

*T*he Flood of '93. What a disaster. What a great opportunity to show people that preservation matters! One of the Iowa Cooperative Preservation Consortium's [ICPC] first tests came this summer with the constant flooding. As a relatively new statewide preservation group, we did not have a statewide disaster recovery plan in place. However, we felt that we needed to respond rapidly to a targeted audience of public libraries.

We began faxing information to public libraries in the 30 counties that were in the most critical need of advice. We also mailed out information to all other public libraries. As we accumulated information, we identified gaps in and actively sought out information that we needed.

It also became apparent that the flooding might return next year. Based on our experience this summer, we developed a "Flood Recovery Booklet" for use this spring. ICPC, working in cooperation with the Dept. of Cultural Affairs, compiled, edited, printed, published and distributed over 2,000 booklets to libraries, museums, court houses, newspaper offices, legislators, and local emergency agencies. The booklet

was printed and distributed with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities [NEH] chairman's emergency grant program.

The cooperation in completing this booklet was incredible. Over fifteen institutions assisted by

contributing fact sheets, providing editorial assistance, locating consultants, identifying freezer storage facilities, reducing printing costs, and assisting with distribution and funding. The booklet is designed for the general public and addresses such topics as safety, dealing with mold, treating damaged materials (paper, textiles, microfilm, wood, etc.), and finding places that would help.

ICPC's next steps are to publicize the booklet to insure that the various groups we represent know that the booklet exists and to develop and offer training or information sessions around the state on disaster preparedness and recovery and preservation is everyone's concern. Disasters are not something that happens to someone else!

The Iowa Cooperative Preservation Consortium is a typical Iowa grassroots organization. We exist to initiate, encourage, and enhance preservation and conservation activities in and among all Iowa repositories/institutions whose collections include a variety of two-dimensional materials such as audio-visuals, microforms, and paper-based and electronically stored information for the benefit of present and future generations. The Iowa Cooperative Preservation Consortium proposes to develop a specific action plan containing recommendations and priorities for a coordinated and cooperative effort to preserve, protect, and provide access to Iowa's collections in the most appropriate formats. We are faced with a challenge of preserving and conserving the contents of our document
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The Evolution of F-Grade Library Buckram

Library Binding Service [LBS] announces a new buckram designed especially for library materials. The change was implemented after years of work with the library community, the Library Binding Institute and technicians from several large corporations.

LBS had a goal to produce a material that was consistent for production reasons and that had a fabric appearance. We wanted to eliminate the bulky, awkward and plastic look of the old buckram. To accomplish these goals, we established three primary objectives. First, we wanted to make our new cover material slightly thinner than traditional buckram and improve its overall fabric consistency. Second, we wanted a supple, workable material that retained and enhanced the cloth or fabric appearance of buckram. Last, but not least, the new buckram had to meet all of the physical test requirements of the Library Binding Institute. The resulting new F-grade buckram has an enhanced usefulness and improved performance in a library binding fabric. We are also very proud of the fact that this new material does not harm our environment during its use or manufacture.

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We contacted a large U.S. textile mill and approached their fabric engineers with the project. After several meetings to establish technical criteria, the engineers went to work designing the new base fabric. The engineers considered several factors during the designing

stages, such as thread weaves, blends and diameters, and they even investigated the merits of certain cotton fibers grown in different regions of the United States. Over a period of 24 months, eight trial fabrics were tested and the final version was drafted and woven to meet all of the Library Binding Institute's standards.

Next we went to work on the protective coating that gives buckram its durability and physical qualities. Durability is important to good quality cover material, but our final product had to be environmentally friendly. The pigment coating could contain no heavy metals, so designers developed aqueous acrylic pigment coatings, which are free of heavy metals and solvents. Aqueous acrylic coating allows the buckram to retain as much of the fabric appearance as possible without damaging the environment in the process. The result is a virtually new material with 100% all acrylic aqueous coatings.

A prominent U.S. testing laboratory verified the new buckram, which we refer to as Poly-cotton, to have a pH of 8.5. This slight alkalinity ensures the safety of library materials and its environment.

In designing and manufacturing the new Poly-cotton Buckram, LBS met all of our preliminary goals. The buckram is .014 of an inch thick, which is thinner than conventional buckram, and its overall consistency is pliable and exceptionally workable. The cloth's flexibility allows for high quality book covering workmanship, makes neat, tight corners and turn-ins over binder's board, and lets the book hinge open freely without stress on the endpapers. The new buckram was introduced and made available in January 1994.

Symposium: Publishing, Printing and Binding books on demand

The Xerox Corporation has recently announced the creation of a new division called Book and Educational Publishing Division of Xerox. This new division will devote its efforts to the new concepts of publishing on demand and binding on demand. Xerox hopes to provide a way to eliminate out-of-print and back orders of books in print as well as publish educational textbooks and course packs.

The method will be to digitalize the books and print "on demand" only the number of copies needed. Within a very short time of just several days, the books will be printed, bound, and distributed to the user. These new concepts will have a major impact

on publishing, printing, binding, and distribution.

LBS Bookbinding Components division and Xerox are sponsoring a 1½ day symposium in Des Moines, Iowa on June 11, 1994, and the morning of June 12 at the Des Moines Convention Center. The purpose is to bring together printers, publishers, binders, and educators to hear presentations by Xerox, adhesive

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manufacturers, binders, printers and publishers.

To receive more information about this conference on electronic publishing and binding on demand, please call, write or fax Jan Comer, LBS/Archival Products.

Archival Products offers new products

PL Pamphlet Binder

We were faced with the problem of designing a pamphlet binder that could stretch budgets but still retain the strength and durability of our original pam-binder design. The original binder was designed to protect the pamphlet or music by sewing or stapling into a reinforced spine. On the outside of the spine is a pressure-sensitive strip that is adhered to the spine after sewing or stapling. This spine flap hides the sewing or staples and does not harm the pamphlet or music. The process is reversible without harm to the material.

Our goal was to provide an alternative structure and not compromise material, function or durability from the original design. The pressure-sensitive strip is a very expensive part of the design. By eliminating the strip, we can slightly redesign the binder using the same materials and offer it at a substantial savings. During construction, we use a double thickness of C-1 grade acrylic coated book cloth. This forms the same flexible

and durable binding structure. The only difference will be that the sewing thread or staples will be visible on the spine.

A side benefit of this alternate design is that no finishing is necessary after sewing the pamphlet or music.

This new design uses the same C-1 acrylic book cloth, the same high-density dark grey coated board. A .020-point clear polyester front cover is available at **no extra cost**.

You now have a choice of the original pamphlet that conceals the binding structure or the alternative which exposes sewing threads. The original pamphlet is designated as SF and the alternate version is PL.

Drop-Spine Box

Archival Products is proud to announce the addition of beautifully crafted drop-spine boxes. Each box is precisely made with the finest materials. Smaller boxes measuring $8\frac{3}{4} \times 11 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ are designed with an .082 lig-free binders board single wall construction. The corners of the smaller boxes are constructed using *butt joints* rather than *slit joints*. Butt joints use separate pieces of board that reinforce each other at connecting points providing a strong, durable joint. Slit joints are made with one piece of board that is simply cut and folded and are less durable.

Larger boxes are double-walled with a .098 lig-free binders board. A *step joint* method of construction is used that bonds two butt joints together. This provides additional strength and durability required by

the larger size.

The exterior cloth on the walls between the top and bottom is trimmed in longer lengths and turned in rather than cut to exact size. The extra cloth length and turned edge

design provide strong, finished and properly fitted seams and edges.

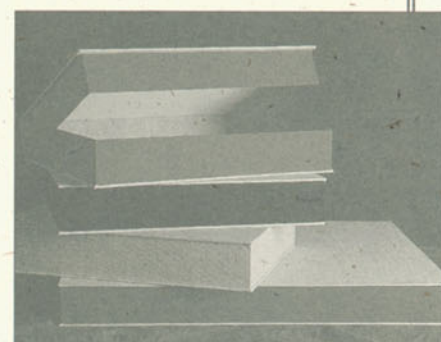
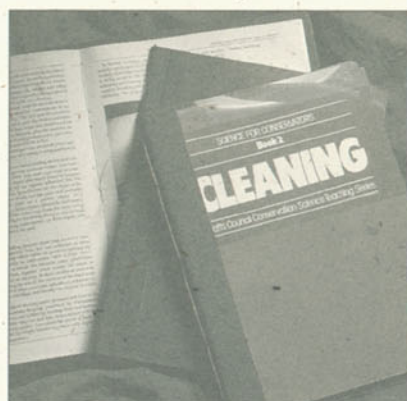
Drop-spine boxes are often used to house rare books, but various other items can benefit from the archival environment. Drop-spine boxes can also be used for photo albums, manuscripts, letters, collections, museum pieces, and vintage clothing.

We stock three sizes in natural linen, two-tone natural linen/black, and two-tone natural linen/red. Custom sizes are available. Please call to discuss your project and to request a price for special sizes. We know you will agree that these are the finest drop-spine boxes available.

Archival Albums

Another addition to the Archival Products product line is the archival album. Every album is constructed using .082 lig-free binders board, 80# off-white 11x13 alkaline paper leaves with a Smyth sewn, full cloth case binding of natural cotton linen tweed and burnt sienna end bands.

The archival albums are available in two sizes: $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch thick containing 22 leaves or one-inch thick containing 34 leaves. The albums can accommodate materials up to 8x10 inches either horizontally or vertically. The leaves sustain frequent use, and the spacers allow a filled album to close flat. The all-archival quality album components help slow the aging process that can destroy older materials. Materials will last much longer in the acid-free environment.



*We are interested in your
conservation and preservation projects.
Archival Products encourages readers to share
their thoughts and ideas on any subject
affecting the Library Community.*

ADDRESS ARTICLES TO:

LBS/Archival Products, Attn: Janice Comer
P.O. Box 1413, Des Moines, IA 50305

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repositories. Staggering amounts of materials are in critical need of attention **now**.

ICPC was started as a cooperative venture. In November of 1989, academic librarians from around Iowa met at a leadership retreat funded by the national Association of College and Research Libraries [ACRL]. At this retreat five areas were identified where academic (state university, private and community college) librarians could cooperate; a working group was established for each area. These areas were: resource sharing, communications and networking, staff development, funding, and preservation.

The preservation working group struggled with a number of issues during its early meetings, including the multi-organizational nature of an effective preservation program. The working group grew out of the Iowa ACRL Chapter but the members knew that to have an effective statewide preservation plan or movement it was necessary to involve public libraries, historical societies, special libraries, archival repositories, and even private collectors.

To assist in the transition to a multi-organizational group the working group members invited Lisa Fox, a nationally known leader in preservation efforts, to speak at the 1990 Iowa Library Association's annual conference on preservation issues. Lisa Fox also met with representatives from the three state university libraries, the State Library, the State Historical Society of Iowa [SHSI] and a representative from the Iowa ACRL Chapter to discuss statewide preservation planning.

In 1991, the preservation working group invited the State Historical Society of Iowa to assist them in their transition from an academic library-based group to a multi-organizational group. In the fall of 1992 the

transition was completed. In an innovative move the ILA/ACRL Preservation Working Group voted itself out of existence and formed the Iowa Cooperative Preservation Consortium.

We spent the first year developing an identity for ourselves. Activities included designing a logo and letterhead; consulting with Robert Strauss, a preservation consultant, about other statewide preservation groups; holding a panel discussion on state and county records; and applying to NEH to fund a statewide preservation planning effort.

Most activities were done through the group process. Though time-consuming, it resulted in better products and a stronger group identity. For instance, the grant writing effort involved close to twenty people and took nine months. Everyone has a basic understanding of what the planning effort will involve if we get the funding.

The Consortium represents about 20 statewide organizations with extremely diverse collections ranging from courthouse records to large university collections. Major state institutions in this Consortium are the State Library, Iowa State University, University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa, the State Historical Society of Iowa, and the State Records Commission.

Nancy Kraft is chair of the Iowa Cooperative Preservation Consortium and brings to this group her experience as the Iowa Newspaper Project Director.

The Flood Recovery Booklet, compiled by the Iowa Cooperative Preservation Consortium, is available for purchase. This booklet has information on how to recover your water-damaged material and where to go for additional help. Please send check along with name and address to Iowa State Printing Division, Publications Division, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Please allow 4 - 6 weeks for delivery. Please include sales tax if you are not tax exempt. Cost recovery price is \$10.00 plus \$.50 for tax, per booklet.

Printed on
Acid-free
archival Genesis
Cross Pointe
Millkweed, 80 lb.
Text, Vellum
Finish, made
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