



DLIS/1/CT/02

UNIT: 4 BINDING

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BINDING

Book binding is the process of collecting printed pages of a book together in correct sequence, and putting them between covers. Binding holds the pages together, protects them from wear and tear and makes their use easy. A tastefully designed cover makes the book attractive too.

“Binding of Library Books” and “Library Binding” are two terms having different connotations.

“Binding of Library Books” comprises different types of binding used for different types of materials having different physical forms and intrinsic value. But, “Library Binding” is a specific type of binding which adopts typical binding process, using materials of specified standard.



The first step of any binding process involves *folding*, *gathering* and *sewing*. Printing is done on large sheets of paper, several pages of the book printed on both sides of each sheet.

After printing, the sheets are folded (*folding*). Each folded sheet comprising, usually 8 or 16 pages of the book (sometimes viz., *folio*, *quarto*, *octavo* in the Key Words at the end of the Unit) is called a 'forme' or a 'section'.

For the convenience of binder in arranging these sections in the correct sequence, the first page of each section is marked at the bottom left corner with consecutive numbers or letters of the alphabet, known as 'signatures'. These forme, sections or signature are then arranged (*gathering*), ready for stitching (*sewing*), and after stitching, provided with appropriate covering.

CLASSIFICATION OF BINDING

The form of binding in which publications come to the library ranges from wire-stitched pamphlets having soft paper cover to elaborate leather binding (even with elaborate decorations). The different types of binding can be broadly categorised as follows:

Classified by Stitching Process Used

The pamphlet-type publications are generally released by their publishers in wire-stitched form, with soft paper cover. If the number of pages are small, the printing is so done as to allow centre stitching with a staple to attach the pages to the outer cover. But in case of pamphlets having more number of pages comprising several sections, side-stitching becomes necessary.

The staples/wires generally used, are galvanised or copper-plated, steel wires. Though this is a convenient and less expensive and fast process, it is an ill-conceived method of securing the sections. Wire-stitched books, unless centre-stitched, do not open easily; the staple wires rust in due course, causing paper to disintegrate. This necessitates rebinding the volume sooner or later in a proper way.

Adhesive Applied Binding

In this process the backs of all the folded sheets (the sections) are cut, converting each page as a single leaf. A flexible adhesive is then applied to the freshly cut edges of the sheets. Each, single sheet is then secured and the pages have the freedom of movement in opening and closing.

Adhesive bound books using stable polymer glues are published these days in a very large number. These comprise not only fictions, or pocket-book editions, but also non-fiction books of long lasting value. This process has no doubt made mass-production of books cheap and rapid, but it is considered as a necessary evil. The pages of the books so bound come apart after a very little use, requiring re-binding for long-term use and preservation. In spite of this drawback, curiously enough this type of binding is known as *perfect* binding which is far from being perfect.

Section-stitched Binding

In this process, also called “signature stitching”, the folded signatures are gathered together in correct sequence. These are subsequently sewn with thread and needle, the stitches fastening one signature to the other.

If the publication is to be given a soft or a hard-cover casing (see ‘casing’ below) the sewn sections are pasted down with hinges and endpapers with the cover. But if stronger binding with hard-cover is required, the sewn signatures are also sewn on to pieces of cord or strips of white linen fixed or pasted across the spine. The projected parts of the cord or the tape in their turn are pasted down or laced into the covering boards later in the process. This process of stitching is a part of “binding” in the real sense of the term, as opposed to wire-stitching or adhesive binding discussed above.

CLASSIFIED BY THE TYPE OF COVERING MATERIAL USED

Soft-cover Binding

Pamphlets are generally published with soft covers made of thick paper or thin card sheets. The cover is stapled on to the folded sections

Now-a-days more and more publications in soft covers are released by the publishers. These include pamphlets, fictions and even non-fiction books, pocket-book editions and student editions of standard books for being sold at affordable price. In this process single card-sheet are printed and cut to size to cover both the sides of the book. It is then creased to accommodate the spine of the volume. The spine is guarded with thick paper and a strip of white linen, all of which are then sewn together with the sections of the book. The whole is then pasted on to the card-sheet cover with the help of end-papers. The linen reinforcement is also pasted down..

Books with this type of soft-cover binding are weak in physical get-up and require regular binding in due course, if long term use and preservation is required.

Hard-cover Binding

Hard-bound editions of books use heavy boards, such as:

Straw boards: a cheaper quality card-board made of straw. These are generally used for smaller and cheaper books;

Mill boards: made of jute, hemp or rags, properly calendered to make them tough;

Grey boards: medium quality boards, compact and strong;

Split boards: made by gluing thin black mill-boards. These are used for reinforced library binding.

The process is like this:

Two pieces of board, one for the front and the other for the back of the volume, are cut to size. These will be so cut as to overhang the pages of the volume at head (top) foot (bottom) and fore-edges (sides) and are laced on by the cord or tape-ends.

After the boards have been laced to the book, these are covered with leather, cloth, rexine, leather like plastic, or paper, from which the following nomenclatures of the styles of binding are derived:

Full leather Or Half-leather binding

Full cloth or Full rexine binding

Half and quarter cloth binding.

Reference:-

1.<http://egyankosh.ac.in>

Thanks