DP3 digital print preservation portal
Newsletter
IMAGE PERMANENCE INSTITUTE
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IN THIS ISSUE

- What Was Old Is New: How the Photocopier Evolved into the Laser Printer
- Revision of ISO 18920 Imaging Materials – Reflection Prints – Storage Practices
- Frequently Asked Question
- Terminology: Photobook
- Upcoming Workshops
- Upcoming Events
- Recent Publications

UPCOMING EVENTS

AIC Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, NM

May 8–12, 2012

IPI researchers will be giving a paper detailing the latest results of their research into digital print stability and preservation.

More information on this conference can be found here.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Aesthetics, Craft, and Care of the Fine Art Digital Print in Rochester, NY

July 30 – August 3, 2012

In a small group setting, this lecture and hands-on style workshop will teach participants the unique aesthetics of the fine art digital print and help them understand their distinguishing characteristics.

More information on this workshop can be found here.

Identification and Conservation of Digital Prints in Boston, MA

October 29 – November 2, 2012

A Collaborative Workshop in Photograph Conservation, organized by Martin Jürgens. Funded in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

More information on this workshop can be found here.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Cracking of Inkjet Colorant Receiver Layers on Exposure to Light
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Review of Research at RIT Comparing the Print Value and Permanence of Digital Prints vs. Offset Lithography and Silver-Halide Prints
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What Was Old Is New: How the Photocopier Evolved into the Laser Printer

From the 1950's through the 1980's, photocopiers created a copy of text or an image by reflecting light off of the white areas of the original (which had been laid face down on the glass platen) onto a charged drum. This reflected light neutralized the charge on the drum so that when oppositely charged toner was applied to the unexposed (and still charged) areas of the drum it would stick. The toner was then transferred from the drum to the paper and fused by heat and pressure to create the final copy. Laser printing is an updated version of this process. Now the original document or image is scanned and an electronic file is created. The data in this file is then used to control a laser which exposes the charged drum. From there, the rest of the process is the same with the toner being transferred to the paper and then fused to make it permanent. The process, whether to make direct photocopies from originals or laser prints, is technically known as electrophotography.

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Revision of ISO 18920 Imaging Materials – Reflection Prints – Storage Practices

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has recently published a revised version of their storage standard for reflection prints. The standard's scope includes both traditionally printed photographic images as well as modern digitally printed images. It does not include recommendations for documents printed with digital output systems (see ISO 1799 Information and documentation -- Document storage requirements for archive and library materials). The original ISO 18920 standard was published in 2000. The previous recommendations for long-term storage of reflection prints lumped all digital processes into a single category, "All other", and put the maximum allowable storage temperature for these materials at -3° C and the relative humidity range at 30-50% RH.

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Frequently Asked Question

We are often asked whether we have tested any of the various post-printing treatments used on digital hardcopy. These can include sprays, laminates, as well various mounting systems. IPI is not currently studying the impact these treatments may have on digital prints over the long-term. There are two reasons for this. The first is that the number of print variations (printing technology, colorants, and paper types), without adding the complexity of treatment variations, is already very large. The second is that there are no existing test methods by which to evaluate the performance of the treated prints. For now, we believe our best approach will be to thoroughly understand the print materials' behavior without treatments. From that point, new test methods may be developed to begin to understand how post-print treatments will affect the preservation of the printed materials.

Terminology: Photobook



Photobook – a photobook differs from a photo album in that the images are printed directly on the page as opposed to being glued onto (as in a scrapbook or magnetic album) or slid into the page (as in a pocket page or flip type album). These, more closely resemble coffee table books than scrapbooks. They are a product of the age of digital photography and printing.