

# 2022 ALA-CORE National Binding Survey

ALA Core Library Binding Practices Survey Team

February 2023

## Introduction

The American Library Association (ALA) Core Preservation Administration Interest Group (PAIG) held a Symposium on the Future of Library Binding<sup>1</sup> in 2022. Following the symposium, the ALA Core Library Binding Practices Survey Team<sup>2</sup> (hereafter, “Team”) was convened to explore issues that arose during the symposium. The Team members volunteered to create a survey on current library binding practices to gain a better understanding of who is using library binding as a preservation and access method, how they are using such services, and the challenges that face the community.

## Methodology

The Team was composed of four practitioners working in library Conservation and Preservation, one Assessment professional with expertise conducting surveys and analyzing data, and an ALA Liaison. The survey was designed by the Team and distributed by Duke University Libraries using Qualtrics survey software. The Team distributed the survey to over thirty professional listservs on September 6, 2022, requesting that only one response be submitted per institution. The deadline for responding was scheduled for September 30, 2022. This deadline was extended to October 7, 2022. The free text comments were topically coded by Team members.

### **Limitations of design and results**

All members of the Team are employees of academic libraries. Additionally, the survey was distributed under the auspices of ALA and its Core Division, which may have limited participation. Though the Team’s aim was to reach as wide an audience as possible including academic, public, private, school, and special libraries, nearly 90% of responding institutions were academic libraries.

## Findings

Respondents were asked to submit only one response per institution, and the survey received responses from ninety-four institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> Symposium on the Future of Library Binding, February 3, 2022.

<https://connect.ala.org/core/communities/community-home/digestviewer/viewthread?GroupId=115030&MessageKey=e740937d-a886-4cc0-ace9-dcede89b2dd8&CommunityKey=aeb5b1e5-3c0e-418b-b228-bb203c7621f8&tab=digestviewer>

<sup>2</sup> Library Binding Survey Project Team, convened summer 2022. <https://www.ala.org/core/member-center/sections/metadata-and-collections/library-binding-survey-project-team>

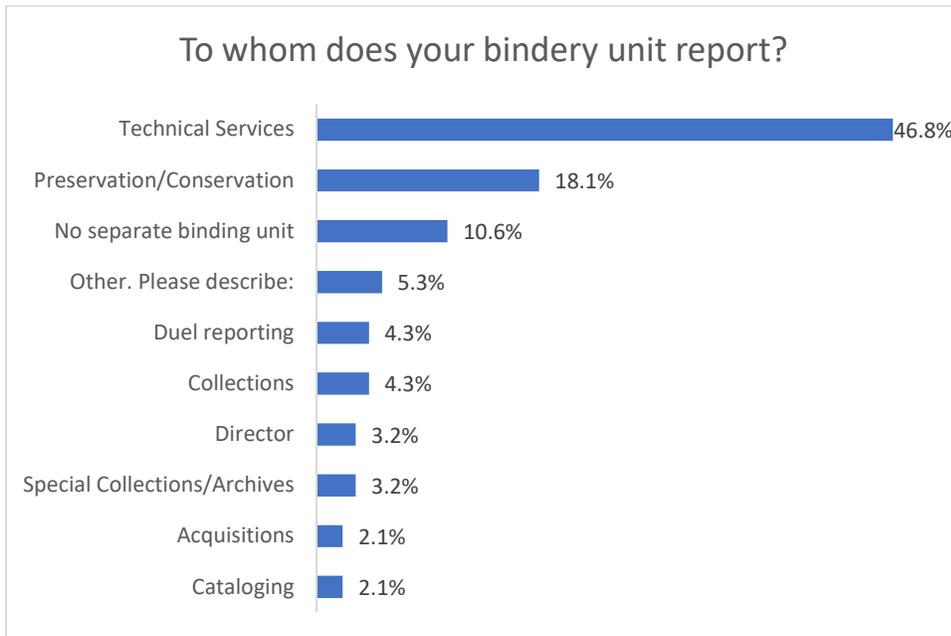
**Type of organization.** The majority of respondents (89.4%, n = 84) were academic binding units. Public and Special libraries each received four (4.3%) respondents.

**Staffing levels for binding unit.** Respondents were asked to provide comparative staffing levels for 2022 and 2018. The average staffing level in Full Time Equivalent (FTE) has fallen in all three staffing categories. Among exempt and non-exempt staff, the decrease is similar. Student staffing levels have fallen the most.

AVERAGE STAFFING LEVELS	2022	2018	PERCENT CHANGE
EXEMPT	0.89	1.04	-14.7%
NON-EXEMPT	1.57	1.86	-16.0%
STUDENT ASSISTANTS	0.74	0.95	-21.5%

**To whom does your bindery unit report?**

Almost half of bindery units report to Technical Services (46.8%), followed by 18.1% reporting to Preservation/Conservation. Ten responding institutions do not have a separate binding unit (10.6%). Less than 5% of respondents report to a variety of other units, including dual reports (for example to both Technical Services and Preservation), Collections, directly to the Director, Special Collections, Acquisitions, and Cataloging.



**What did you spend on library binding for each of the fiscal years below, NOT including staffing?**

Respondents were asked how much was spent on binding for each of four fiscal years FY2018-FY2022, skipping FY2020 due to the disruptive arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic during that year. Twelve respondents (12.8%) reported zero expenditures in any of the years and an additional four left the

question blank without an explanation. All but one of these twelve who reported zero expenditures also reported that they have no staff or student FTEs dedicated to binding, and eight of the twelve had left a comment in the previous question clarifying that they have no bindery unit. For the institutions who spent money on binding over the past five years, the average annual binding expenditures are as shown below.

	FY2018	FY2019	FY2021	FY2022
<b>Mean</b>	\$ 89,730.64	\$ 75,452.89	\$ 31,291.27	\$ 51,832.52
<b>Median</b>	\$ 42,112.00	\$ 43,835.00	\$ 18,988.50	\$ 31,227.80

When the overall expenditures are compared between FY2018 and FY2022, there is a 45.3% decrease in binding expenditures.

**How many items did you send to the library binder in each of these fiscal years?**

Respondents were asked how many items (of any format, including boxing/enclosures) they sent to the library binder in each of four fiscal years FY2018-FY2022, skipping FY2020 due to the disruptive arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic during that year. Fourteen respondents (14.9%) reported zero items sent to the bindery during these years, and an additional four left the question blank without an explanation. Eight of the 14 with zero items sent to the bindery in all four years (57.1%) also reported that they have no bindery unit. For institutions that sent materials to a bindery over the past five years, the average annual number of items sent are as shown below.

	FY2018	FY2019	FY2021	FY2022
<b>Mean</b>	12,949	12,304	6,625	10,541
<b>Median</b>	5,584	5,713	4,756	10,501

When the overall number of items sent to the bindery are compared between FY2018 and FY2022, there is a 45.3% decrease in the number of items sent to a bindery.

**What percentage of your current library binding program is made up of each of the following material types?**

The survey asked respondents to estimate what percentage of their *current* library binding program falls into each of eight material types, including an option for “other” with a descriptive text field. Sixteen respondents (17.0%) left all fields blank, and eight of these (50%) indicated that they do not currently have a binding program in another free text question.

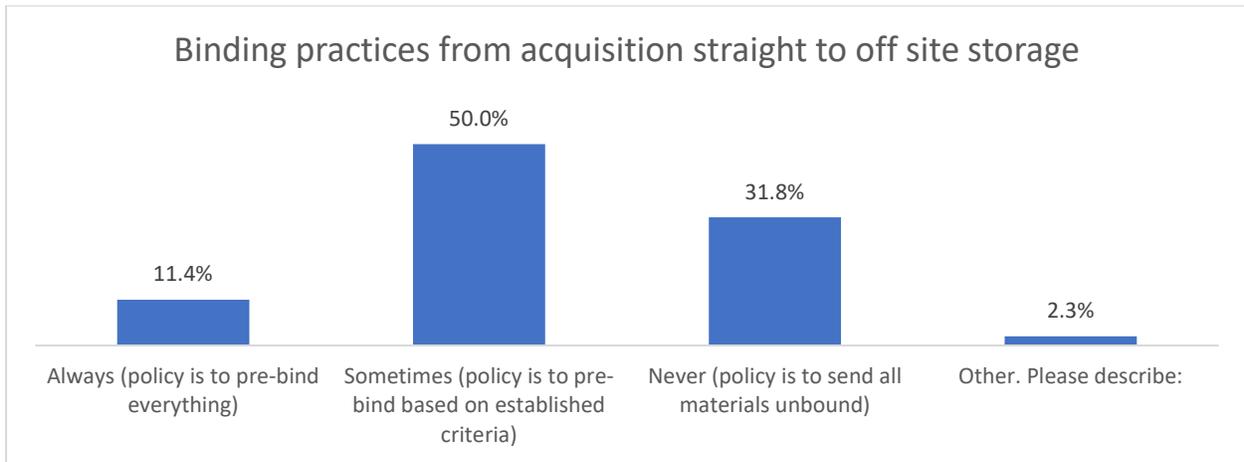
Half of the seventy-eight respondents who currently send materials to a bindery reported that 50% or more of their materials are serials/periodicals, and fourteen (17.9%) report that serials/periodicals are 99-100% of the materials sent to a bindery. Monographs are the second most frequent material type sent to the bindery, followed by music. The average percent of material of each type that institutions

are currently sending to a bindery can be found below. The comments about other material types included newspapers, facsimiles, digicovers, tattle tape, and special collections items.

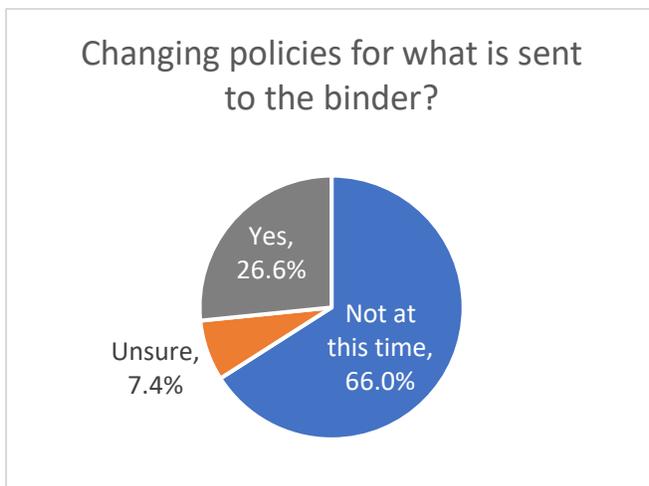
	Monographs	Serials/ periodicals	Music	Pamphlets	Theses/ dissertations	GovDocs	Boxing/ custom enclosures	Other
<b>Mean</b>	21.4%	51.7%	11.7%	2.0%	5.8%	0.4%	2.5%	3.4%
<b>Median</b>	12.5%	49%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

**If your institution has off site storage, do you regularly bind items going directly to storage from acquisition?**

Slightly over half (55.3%) of respondents answered “N/A,” indicating that they do not have off site storage. If we consider only the forty-two institutions that have off site storage, we find that nearly a third (31.8%) never bind items going directly to storage, only 11.4% have a policy to always do so, and the majority (50.0%) do so sometimes. The one free text response for “other” was “CMI Boxes.”

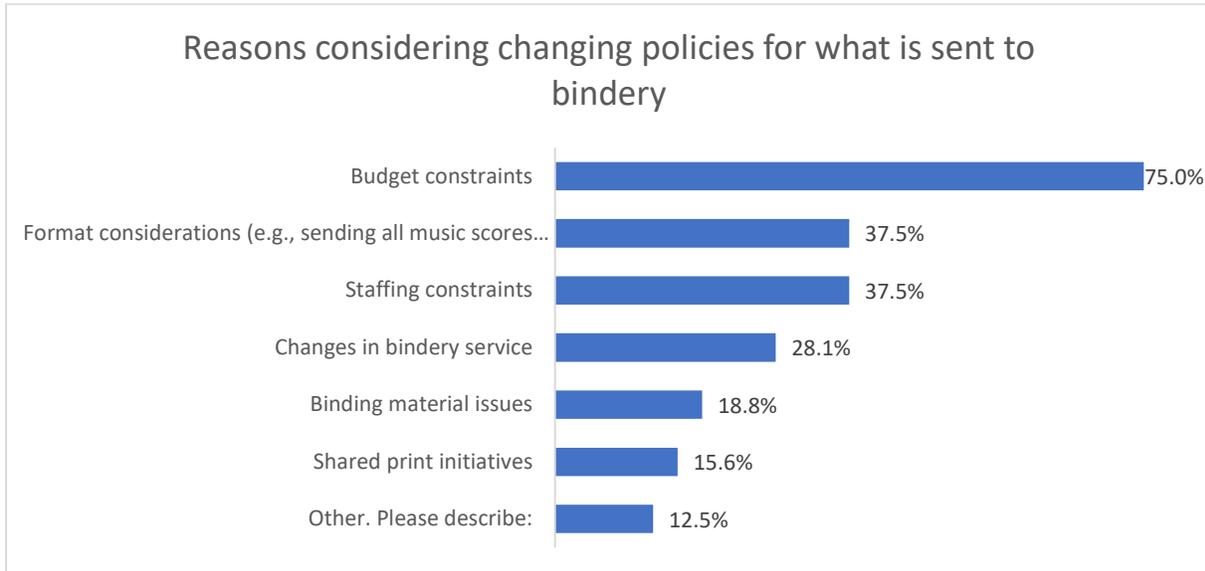


**Are you considering changing your policies for what you send to the binder? Why?**



When asked whether they are considering changing policies for what is sent to the binder, the majority of institutions (66.0%) said they are not considering changing policies at this time. Slightly more than a quarter (26.6%) are considering changes policies. Those who responded that they were unsure or were planning to change their policies were additionally asked to select the reasons they are considering changing policies. Twenty-four (75.0%) cited budget constraints, such as increased vendor costs. Twelve (37.5%) cited format considerations and staffing constraints

respectively, and nine (28.1%) cited changes in bindery services, such as increased vendor costs, the bindery’s capacity, or the inability to meet the minimum order.



**What type of library binder do you use?**

Over half the respondents (56.4%) report using a large commercial bindery, and 22.3% use a small, family-owned bindery. Institutional binderies are not prevalent.

Type of bindery	Count	Percent
Large commercial bindery	53	56.4%
Small family-owned bindery	21	22.3%
None	8	8.5%
Other	7	7.4%
Institutional bindery	4	4.3%

### Are you satisfied with your current library binding services?

When asked if they are satisfied with their current binding services, 60.6% said, “mostly yes.” Only 11.7% reported being dissatisfied.

Are you satisfied with binder?	count	percent
Mostly yes	57	60.6%
Neutral	15	16.0%
Mostly no	11	11.7%
No binder/searching for new binder	6	6.4%
Other	5	5.3%

### How important is the NISO Library Binding Standard in choosing your service options?

Respondents were asked how important the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) Library Binding Standard in selecting their binding service options. Responses were mixed, with roughly a fourth of respondents reporting that the Standard is not at all important, and two-thirds reporting the Standard is either very or moderately important.

NISO standard?	count	percent
Not at all important	25	26.9%
A little important	7	7.5%
Moderately important	32	34.4%
Very important	29	31.2%

### Are you satisfied with current coverings (e.g., book cloths) that are available from your library binder?

Nearly 70% of respondents are mostly satisfied with their current library binder. In the comments left by those who responded, “Other,” people discussed having fewer and fewer cover choices, reductions in the quality of cover material by binderies, and cover limitations caused by supply chain issues.

	Count	Percent
Mostly yes	63	69.2%
Neutral	18	19.8%
Other. Please describe:	10	11.0%

### Rank the issues of greatest concern regarding your library binding workflows

Respondents were asked to rank the issues of greatest concern regarding their library binding workflows with 1 meaning the issue is of greatest concern and 12 meaning it is of least concern. The results are shown in the table below, with the issues of greatest concern appearing at the top. Some of the issues respondents are most concerned about are monetary – including increased vendor costs and budget challenges. Issues at the binderies were also ranked highly, including a drop in the number of vendors

and labor shortages at the vendor. Eleven free text responses were received under “Other,” including issues such as turnaround time, quality of bindery product, and increased shipping costs.

<b>Rank issues of greatest concern</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Increased vendor costs	4.42
Budget challenges	4.88
Decreasing numbers of library binding vendors	5.35
Loss of library binding as a preservation/access option	5.49
Labor shortages at vendor	5.97
Changing collection policies (e.g., electronic-only preferred)	6.49
Material changes and/or availability (e.g., bookcloth, adhesives, etc.)	6.55
Publishers’ manufacturing trends (e.g., no spines, no bindings, UV printing)	6.78
Staffing challenges (e.g., can't find qualified staff, can't retain staff, lost staff line)	7.54
Internal binding workflow efficiency (e.g., too many touch points, duplicative effort)	7.68
Backlogs due to COVID-19	8.18
Other. Please describe:	8.44

**What services do you wish your library binder would offer that they currently do not?**

The survey received free text responses from forty-eight institutions (51.1%) when they were asked to consider what services they wish the binder would offer that they don’t. The majority of the comments (39.6%) said that the institution desired no services that were not already provided by the binder. “I am very satisfied with the services our binder provides. They offer everything I can envision using.” Sixteen percent (16.7%) wanted additional services related to delivery and shipping such as shipment pickup services and more flexible or dependable pickup schedules. Fifteen percent (14.6%) wanted changes to services around pricing, such as pricing transparency, or the ability to send a small number of items without an exorbitant upcharge. Twelve (12.5%) discussed additional products desired, such as color cover copying or material choices. “Flex mylar - it was cost effective and good enough - now we're forced to do Digicovers, which are much more expensive and result in more work on our end such as replacing barcodes that no longer will read after binding is done.” An additional 10.4% of comments related to a desire for better quality.

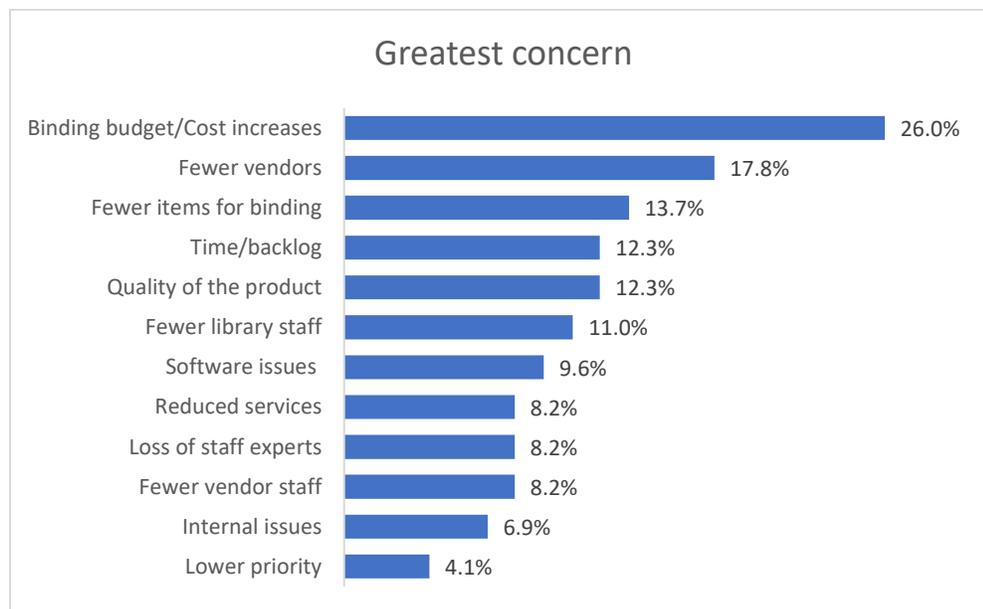
**What is your greatest concern as it relates to your internal library binding workflow or current library binding options?**

The survey received free text responses from seventy-three institutions (77.7%) when asked what their greatest concern is as it relates to the internal library binding workflow or current library binding options. When the comments were coded, slightly over a fourth (26.0%) related to binding budgets or increased vendor costs. See Appendix D for all the free text comments. Sample comments include, “The cost of services has increased by approx. 35% while our budget has stayed the same and the quality of binding work has decreased,” and “local budgets and staffing. Program has shrunk so much that to rebuild it would require investment in annual vendor budget and new staff line.” Respondents discussed

frustrations with binding budgets that had been reduced or were non-existent, elimination of positions crucial to the binding process, and difficulty justifying the cost of binding.

The second most common concern was the diminishing number of vendors (17.8% of responses). One respondent commented that, “We only have one viable company that does library binding in our area, and also lost our preferred binder to the pandemic. Our greatest concern is the stability of the current company and the turnaround times generated by the fact that they are taking on so much extra work.” Another said their primary concern was, “that there [are] fewer large scale commercial binding options and that prices/costs are frequently increasing.”

The next most common concern is issues caused by libraries having fewer items to bind. Several respondents discussed the impact of the transition from print to electronic resources in decreasing binding demand. Many are frustrated with minimum order thresholds: “We don’t have a good option for binding at all, since our volume is below the threshold for ordering. This means that we’re no longer binding journals,” We haven’t been able to bind anything with a professional bindery since 2019 because we can’t meet the minimum (and staff normally in charge of sending out periodicals is a vacant position).” Of course, these areas of concern overlap. Summarized in the words of one respondent, “not many companies left, supply shortage (fewer colors than ever), cost increases [are] necessary. I understand and relates to supply issues and the fact we are all reducing how much we bind.”



Some respondents discussed frustrations stemming from outdated software: “Bindery software (ABLE) is obsolete, unintuitive, and just crude to begin with. Much the same could be said in some ways of our ILS (Alma). Altogether, it seems quite time-consuming for what it accomplishes.” See appendix D for all the free text comments.

**Would you like to continue this discussion? (Select all that apply)**

When asked if they would like to continue the discussion, 45.7% of responding institutions said that they would not be interested in further discussions and 54.3% said that they would like to continue the discussion. Respondents were presented with four options of how conversations might continue. The

most popular path forward is to work outside of ALA (Non-ALA-based discussions, 64.7% of those who want to continue discussions). Nearly half of those who want to continue the discussion (49%) would like to see a new topical listserv created that anyone can join.

<b>Would you like to continue the discussion</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of total respondents</b>	<b>% of those who want to continue discussion</b>
Yes. Non-ALA-based discussions (e.g., webinars, Zoom discussions)	33	35.1%	64.7%
Yes. Create a new topical listserv that anyone can join	25	26.6%	49.0%
Yes. Re-constitute the ALA Library Binding Discussion Group	19	20.2%	37.3%
Yes, more library binding discussions at ALA PAIG	18	19.1%	35.3%

Five respondents left a comment in the “Other” response to this question. One respondent said they would be uninterested in continuing the discussion publicly they would be worried about offending library leaders, vendors, and supervisors.

#### **How often should a national survey on Library Binding be conducted?**

Over a third of respondents feel a national survey on library binding should be conducted every 3-5 years (35.1% of respondents). Very few respondents (2.1%) felt that such a survey should be conducted only one time. When the responses for “annually” and “every other year” are combined into a single category, 38.3% of respondents think a national annual library binding survey should occur more frequently than every 3-5 years. One institution commented, “All of the landscape is moving and changing too fast to keep up with - more discussion would be welcome so we don't feel so all alone.”

<b>How often should a national survey on Library Binding be conducted?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Every 3-5 years	33	35.1%
Annually	19	20.2%
Every other year	17	18.1%
Fold it into the annual ALA Preservation Statistics	16	17.0%
One time	2	2.1%
Other. Please describe:	3	3.2%

One commenter suggested the survey should be conducted during the summer, when staff have more time to complete it.

#### **What haven't we asked about library binding that you would like to share with us?**

The survey received free text responses from thirty institutions (31.9%). Slightly fewer than half of the responses (46.7%) included suggestions for modifications to make to the next iteration of the survey. One suggestion was that the survey document what percent of libraries no longer have an active binding

program. While the survey team had assumed only institutions with binding programs would respond to the survey, this had not been clear in the survey distribution email and many institutions who no longer have active binding programs answered the survey and contributed helpfully to the conversation. Over a fourth (26.7%) of comments discussed the fact that an institution had already had to stop binding, or was worried their programs would be ended. Other suggestions included adding questions to help group respondents into categories such as size (e.g., staff FTE, budget), modifying the staffing levels question to list the percent of staff's time spent on binding and to clearly separate in-house staff from outsourcing. There is also interest in asking questions about turnaround time, benchmarks for damage to materials before they are sent to the bindery, how many repairs are performed on items before they are sent to the bindery, how items are transferred to and from the bindery, and how many times per year bindery shipments are sent. There were recommendations for more clarity in the questions about shipping costs and custom enclosures. Some institutions used this question to provide closing commentary. For example, "I'm very worried about the binding industry -- it was hard hit by the Covid shutdown in addition to dwindling business due to eResources. We still need them, but they may not be a viable business type anymore, and we may be left with no options/no services." See Appendix D for all the free text comments.

## Next steps

Fifty-four percent of the respondents were interested in continuing the discussion beyond the survey, and seventy-one percent were in favor of the survey conducted. Additionally, there were sixty-five percent of the respondents that reported that the NISO standard was either moderately important or very important to them. There is significant interest in continuing discussions surrounding library binding. The survey team will present its findings at ALA Midwinter 2023 (Thursday March 9, 2023; 3:00-4:00pm EST). Further discussion of the survey results will be added to the agenda at ALA Annual Meeting in June 2023, and will be hosted by a joint meeting of the Preservation Administrators Interest Group and the Preservation Standards and Practices Committee.

Next steps include:

1. Decide if this survey, in whole or part, will be combined with the annual Preservation Statistics survey. Meet w/ PS&P to discuss this
2. If not, decide the frequency/timing of the next survey.
3. Document changes that should be made to the survey tool.
  - a. Decide the process for the next group, including whether institutions who no longer do library binding should participate;
  - b. Include a process for institutional ethics review.
  - c. How to expand beyond academic libraries, and?
4. Discuss feasibility of reconstituting (or creating a new) library binding interest group within Core-Preservation IG
5. Determine the next survey team roster [hopefully some volunteers?] and hand over documentation access
6. Submit recommendations to PAIG, PS&P, and ALA.

## Acknowledgements

The Team would like to thank respondents for taking the time to complete this survey. The community has a lot to discuss around the issues of library binding practices, and we look forward to participating in future conversations. We also wish to thank the individuals who helped test the survey tool prior to distribution:

- Christina (Tina) Beis, University of Dayton
- Jessica Bitely, Boston Public Library
- Corrina Carter, Duke University Libraries
- Chela Metzger, UCLA Library Preservation
- Carla Montori, University of Maryland Libraries
- Sarah Schaff, Denison University

## Survey Team Members

ALA rules stipulate that only ALA members may be recognized on the official survey project website. Because one team member is not an ALA member, the roster on the ALA Core Survey Team web page is incomplete. The complete Survey Team roster is as follows:

- Beth Doyle, Duke University Libraries (Team Chair, March 29, 2022, to June 30, 2023)
- Richenda Lea Brim, Stanford Libraries (Team Member, March 29, 2022, to June 30, 2023)
- Joyce Chapman, Duke University Libraries (Team Member, March 29, 2022, to June 30, 2023)
- Mark Coulbourne, University of Maryland Libraries, (Team Member, March 29, 2022, to June 30, 2023)
- Tanya Cathlene Ellenburg-Kimmet, University of Dayton Libraries (Team Member, March 29, 2022, to June 30, 2023)
- Jenny Levine, ALA (Staff Liaison, March 29, 2022, to June 30, 2023)

## Appendix A: Survey instrument

### Library Binding Practices Survey

The [ALA Core Library Binding Practices Survey Project Team](#) invites you to fill out this survey about your library binding practices. **Please submit only one response per institution.** The goal of the survey is to help the community gain a better understanding of who is using library binding as a preservation and access method; how programs compare in size, scope, and budget; and to gauge satisfaction levels with several aspects of the binding landscape. The Project Team will analyze aggregate responses and author a report that will be shared widely.

The survey is expected to take on average 20 minutes to complete. Deadline for submissions is September 30, 2022.

Please note: We have not asked for identifiable data in the questions. Please be mindful of this when filling out the survey, especially in the free-text answer boxes. If you would like a copy of the report of survey findings, you will have the opportunity to provide an email address at the end, which will not be linked to your survey answers.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

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Type of organization:

- Academic Library
- Public Library
- School Library
- Special Library (Government, Corporate, Independent, etc.)
- Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_



Staffing levels for library binding unit/responsibilities

	FY2022	FY2018
Exempt (FTE)		
Non-exempt (FTE)		
Student assistants (FTE)		

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To whom does your bindery unit report?

- Preservation/Conservation
- Cataloging
- Circulation
- Special Collections/Archives
- Technical Services
- Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you spend on library binding for each of the fiscal years below, NOT including staffing?

- FY2018 \_\_\_\_\_
- FY2019 \_\_\_\_\_
- FY2021 \_\_\_\_\_
- FY2022 \_\_\_\_\_



How many items did you send to the library binder in each of these fiscal years (all formats including boxing/enclosures)?

	Total number of items
FY2018	
FY2019	
FY2021	
FY2022	



By your estimate, what percentage of your current library binding program is made up of each of the following material types?

Monographs : \_\_\_\_\_

Serials/periodicals : \_\_\_\_\_

Music : \_\_\_\_\_

Pamphlets (very thin volumes) : \_\_\_\_\_

Theses/dissertations : \_\_\_\_\_

Government Documents : \_\_\_\_\_

Boxing/custom enclosures : \_\_\_\_\_

Other. Please describe: : \_\_\_\_\_

Total : \_\_\_\_\_

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If your institution has off site storage, do you regularly bind items going directly to storage from acquisition?

- Never (policy is to send all materials unbound)
  - Sometimes (policy is to pre-bind based on established criteria)
  - Always (policy is to pre-bind everything)
  - Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_
  - N/A
- 

Are you considering changing your policies for what you send to the binder?

- Yes
  - Not at this time
  - Unsure
-

Display This Question:

*If Are you considering changing your policies for what you send to the binder? = Yes*

*Or Are you considering changing your policies for what you send to the binder? = Unsure*

What are the reasons you are considering changing your policies for what you send to the binder?  
(Select all that apply)

- Budget constraints
  - Staffing constraints
  - Binding material issues
  - Format considerations (e.g., sending all music scores versus binding some in-house)
  - Shared print initiatives
  - Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- 

What type of library binder do you use?

- Large commercial bindery
  - Small family owned bindery
  - Institutional bindery
  - Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_
-

Are you satisfied with your current library binding services?

Mostly yes

Neutral

Mostly no

Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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How important is the NISO Library Binding Standard in choosing your service options?

Very important

Moderately important

A little important

Not at all important

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Are you satisfied with current coverings (e.g., book cloths) that are available from your library binder?

Mostly yes

Neutral

Mostly no

Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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Rank the issues of greatest concern regarding your library binding workflows (1 = greatest concern, 12 = least concern. Drag and drop).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Internal binding workflow efficiency (e.g., too many touch points, duplicative effort)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Budget challenges
- \_\_\_\_\_ Staffing challenges (e.g., can't find qualified staff, can't retain staff, lost staff line)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Changing collection policies (e.g., electronic-only preferred)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Backlogs due to COVID-19
- \_\_\_\_\_ Increased vendor costs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Material changes and/or availability (e.g. bookcloth, adhesives, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Labor shortages at vendor
- \_\_\_\_\_ Decreasing numbers of library binding vendors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Loss of library binding as a preservation/access option
- \_\_\_\_\_ Publishers manufacturing trends (e.g., no spines, no bindings, UV printing)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other. Please describe:

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What services do you wish your library binder would offer that they currently do not?

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What is your greatest concern as it relates to your internal library binding workflow or current library binding options?

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Would you like to continue this discussion? (Select all that apply)

- No
- Yes. More library binding discussions at ALA PAIG
- Yes. Re-constitute the ALA Library Binding Discussion Group
- Yes. Non-ALA-based discussions (e.g., webinars, Zoom discussions)
- Yes. Create a new topical listserv that anyone can join
- Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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How often should a national survey on Library Binding be conducted?

- One time
- Annually
- Every other year
- Every 3-5 years
- Fold it into the annual ALA Preservation Statistics
- Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

What haven't we asked about library binding that you would like to share with us?

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Would you like to receive a copy of the final survey report?

*If you select "yes," you will be routed to a new form that asks for your email address. Your email address will not be linked to your responses in this survey.*

Yes

No

End of Block: Default Question Block

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## Appendix B: Survey distribution channels

1. ALA Association of College Research Libraries Members (ACRL)
2. ALA Association of College Research Libraries Members - College Libraries Section (ACRL)
3. ALA Association of College Research Libraries Members - University Libraries Section (ACRL)
4. ALA Core
5. ALA Core Metadata and Collection
6. ALA Core News/Twitter
7. Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO)
8. Acquisition Central (ACQNET)
9. American Institute for Conservation Book and Paper Group (AIC Book and Paper)
10. Art Library Association of North America (ARLIS)
11. Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)
12. Big Ten Academic Alliance Listserv (Big 10)
13. California state-wide network
14. Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation Preservation Group
15. Maryland Library Association
16. Medical Library Association Listserv
17. Music Library Association
18. North Carolina Public Library (NCPC)
19. Ohio Library Support Staff Institute (OLSSI)
20. Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK)
21. Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN)
22. Ohio Valley Group of Technical Service Librarians (OVGTSL)
23. Panhandle Library Access Network (PLAN)
24. Public Library Association (PLA)
25. Serving Every Ohioan Library Center of the State Library of Ohio (SEO)
26. Social media sites
27. Society of American Archivist Listserv (SAA)
28. Testers
29. Triangle Research Libraries Network Preservation Group (TRLN preservation group)
30. University System of Maryland Affiliated Institutions (USMAI)
31. Virginia Public Library Association (Virginia PLA)

## Appendix C: Survey distribution email

**Subject line:** ALA Core State of library binding survey -- please complete!

**Body of Email:** The ALA Core Library Binding Practices survey team invites you to fill out this survey about your library binding practices. This survey is unique as it focuses exclusively on library binding. The goal of the survey is to gain a better understanding of who is using library binding as a preservation and access method, and how programs might compare in size, scope, and budget. Results will be analyzed by the survey team and a report of findings will be shared with the community.

We hope to get a broad representation of libraries including small, medium, and large academic, public, and special libraries. Please share this survey as widely as possible to help us broaden the survey's reach.

Please submit one form per organization if possible. If your organization has multiple libraries, each with its own bindery contract, then each organizational unit can submit a survey. If you have centralized your library binding workflows, please submit just one survey.

The survey is expected to take on average 20 minutes. Deadline for submissions is September 30, 2022.

### **What data should you gather?**

Prior to opening the survey, please gather the following information from 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022. Pick the closest year-end dates that correspond to these years (e.g. Fiscal year, calendar year, etc.).

- Library binding statistics (total numbers, numbers broken down by format if you have them, etc.)
- How much did you spend on library binding
- Library binding staffing (FTE and students)
- Have an understanding of your organizational chart, library binding policies and workflows.
- We will also ask you to think about other services you wish your library binder provided. No idea is too far outside the box.

Please note: We have not asked for identifiable data in the questions. Please be mindful of this when filling out the survey, especially in the free-text answer boxes. For example, do not answer "At Duke Libraries we send every book to the library binder no matter what." Simply respond, "We send every book to the library binder no matter what." If you want a copy of the survey report you will be asked to provide an email address at the end, which will not be attached to your survey answers.

Survey link: [https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dnd9cTPIfNXCIy2](https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dnd9cTPIfNXCIy2)

### **What will we do with this data?**

With recent conversations regarding changes to library binding services, materials, and practices, we are hoping to capture how you are currently using library binding, and identify trends both before and after the Covid shut downs of 2020-2021, with full realization that 2020 would be a year of adverse numbers, thus its omission from the survey.

The results will be presented at ALA Annual in 2023 at the Preservation Administration Interest Group (PAIG), on the online PAIG Community page, and published through other channels. Survey respondents will get a copy of the report if they choose to provide an email address.

Thank you for your help,

Tanya Ellenburg-Kimmet, University of Dayton Libraries

Richenda Brim, Stanford University Libraries

Mark Coulbourne, University of Maryland Libraries

Beth Doyle, Duke University Libraries

Joyce Chapman, Duke University Libraries

## Appendix D: Free text comments

What is your greatest concern as it relates to your internal library binding workflow or current library binding options?

Would like to send monographs that are not cost effective to bind in-house
We stopped binding 20+ years ago due to budget cuts. We have talked about starting it up again but don't have the budget or staff to do so.
We only have one viable company that does library binding in our area, and also lost our preferred binder to the pandemic. Our greatest concern is the stability of the current company and the turnaround times generated by the fact that they are taking on so much extra work.
We now spend much more time mending books since we stopped commercial binding. We also replace some books.
We have very few trained staff so loss of expertise and knowledge is a real concern.
We have not bound since 2009.
We don't really do much binding anymore. We eliminated [a] position so [another position] just had to roll binding into [their] job. They do it so infrequently that it isn't easy to remember all the steps involved. The binder was really behind because of COVID so we couldn't use all our budget so the budget was reduced.
We don't have enough staff so we are just not binding anymore
We don't have a good option for binding at all, since our volume is below the threshold for ordering. This means that we're no longer binding journals.
Timeline for items off the shelf has increased. Our staff have more demands on their time and therefore less time to complete binding. At the same time, the bindery has reduced staff and increased turnaround time on their end as well.
There are no other viable commercial binderies in the U.S. that could meet our needs, so when our current vendor has difficulties with staffing, material costs, etc. and is unable to bind as much as we want them to, there is no other recourse for us than to just create a backlog of items.
The quality of our bindery's work is inconsistent.
The only concern (not a huge concern) we have with serials is if buckram colors run out that we have used up until this point. Also, we sometimes have to bind serials with a missing issue, which can be problematic if we receive the missing issue after the volume has been bound. Monographs: Quality control for bound items, losing original content.
The number of periodicals and serials that we bind is rapidly decreasing due to storage capacity limits and publishing trends, but book binding and rebinding remains popular even with our institution's increasing focus on constantly refreshed circulating collections and less on bound reference materials.
The loss of knowledge base as people retire
The cost of services has increased by approx. 35% while our budget has stayed the same and the quality of binding work has decreased.

<p>The bindery we use has eliminated the pick-up and return delivery of items due to schools across the states reducing their bindery requests. We are concerned that that the bindery may eventually close. The library may lose the ability to better preserve books and make them hands on accessible to our patrons, along with the periodicals and thesis/dissertations that we bind. Reduction of available binderies will also drive up the cost of binding materials.</p>
<p>That we have no options other than in-house, which is done by one student who has [only a few] hours per week funding and does some other technical services tasks. We haven't been able to bind anything with a professional bindery [for years] because we can't meet the minimum (and...[due to some] vacant positions)</p>
<p>That there are fewer large scale commercial binding options and that prices/costs are frequently increasing.</p>
<p>That our one primary vendor option may close up shop and we have no alternative</p>
<p>That our library will decide to do away with binding all together in order to save costs even after we change to just binding expensive items that have already circ'd at least once.</p>
<p>Staffing and communication issues at the bindery. Bindery cancelling pickups and drop-offs due to staffing shortages and COVID backlog.</p>
<p>Some people need to trust my judgement as to what needs to be repaired and be patient for the process to happen.</p>
<p>Software is very outdated, which limits our ability to improve efficiency, integrate with ILS, and generate reports.</p>
<p>Since we do not have an active bindery program this does not apply to us.</p>
<p>Right now, the hard part is getting the items that need bound sent to me. Short of staff, and other priorities that are coming prior to binding.</p>
<p>Processing bindery orders is only one of many job duties of the [position] in my department. Bindery processing is de-prioritized, and done only when absolutely necessary.</p>
<p>Pandemic related binding backlog, staffing to do the work, vendor capacity to complete the work. Concern that lack of competition in the binding industry will impact the quality of work and business relationships.</p>
<p>Our vendor went from weekly in-person driver pickups and deliveries to shipping boxes to [named] state. When that plant closed, we shipped bindery items to [state #2]. Our last shipment was sent to [state #2] without us knowing/remembering that the [state #2] plant had closed down. The vendor had to track down the shipment and get it to the new plant in [state #3].</p>
<p>Our library migrated to Alma this year, and learning how to set it up and use it for binding is a concern</p>
<p>Our internal workflow is good. The concern with binding products is the reduction of colors (affecting serials) and the Summit cloth.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-our internal Conservation Lab does all the necessary binding, especially the student employees</li> <li>-training time slows the workflow; retaining trained students is a challenge</li> <li>-consuming valuable conservator time to do binding projects</li> </ul>
<p>Our ILS/LSP doesn't integrate with our binder. Also, our ILS/LSP is new to us since we shut down binding due to COVID, and we haven't figured out all the efficiencies yet.</p>

Nothing much, optimistic to move to more digital access and mostly eliminate need to send things to bindery (long turnaround time, even longer if there's an error etc.), expense etc. We are also planning to downsize print serials in addition to recent policy changes to keep most theses digital only
not many companies left, supply shortage (fewer colors than ever), cost increases- necessary, I understand and relates to supply issues and the fact we are all reducing how much we bind
Not enough work to make it a primary job duty
Not enough staff time to put together the bindery shipment when enough materials are collected that require the bindery.
Not a lot of choice out there.
No real concerns. Longtime staff does work efficiently and well.
no concerns
no concerns
New staff with little documentation of former staff as reference of former practices.
N/A
n/a
My greatest concern is we (meaning both Libraries and humans) tend to keep doing things until they are well beyond the point of being tenable. We don't like change and avoid it at all costs. There have been a lot of changes in library binding, including a decrease in quality but a steady increase in cost. However, everyone at my library seems content to keep paying the price, so to speak, and are very reluctant to discuss other options. Any concerns I bring up are quickly forgotten...Library binding affects so few employees that it is difficult to make others not directly affected...start seriously thinking about alternatives. I worry nothing will be done to plan for the future until the costs are completely outrageous even for large institution[s]. I have nothing but sympathy for our vendor. We have a good relationship with [vendor staff]...and I know supply issues and the pandemic hit them hard. However, the price increases and decrease in options are things I consistently worry about...
My greatest concern is that we will be prohibited from binding due to budget concerns.
My biggest concern is retraining library bindery staff. Our workflows haven't changed much in the past few years and library bindery as an operation hasn't seen much innovation. The same staff have been doing the same work for a long time and it's a challenge to inspire fresh thinking about workflows.
Loss of staff means bindery prep is only part of the job
Logistics of transporting materials to the bindery since it is located at a significant distance.
Local budgets and staffing. Program has shrunk so much that to rebuild it would require investment in annual vendor budget and new staff line.
Library binder cannot keep up with the amount of materials that we need to bind. Looking to engage a second bindery in order to accommodate the amount of binding we need to have completed.
Lack of support and general direction/guidance/and interest from administration
Lack of dedicated budget for binding.
Justifying the cost of binding.

It takes so long from the time something needs to go to bindery until it is returned.
Increasing transition of print to electronic; impacting availability of both binderies and things to bind
Increasing costs/decreasing quality of work (current library binding options) Time staff can devote to binding (internal library binding workflow). We have a half time staff person who is in charge of binding, but binding is only one of their tasks (they also cover all digital resources, repairs, print periodicals and other random duties), so the time available for binding is slim and we send fewer shipments per year as a result.
In order to cut fuel costs we have to share the bindery pick up process with the main university library, given that our number of bound materials have decreased substantially. However, since we bind our student theses, it is still more cost effective to share costs than it is to utilize a different service.
I worry about the small binderies going out of business. I am not interested in the large commercial binderies that bought out their smaller competition. I have not found their quality or the service to be as good.
I am concerned that our binder will go out of business.
I am afraid that the commercial bindery we use, which we consider to be sole source, will go out of business.
How long will ABLE last? Wish to streamline the handoff from the library units to Bindery Prep.
Finding a bindery that is actually open, serves small accounts, and doesn't charge \$40 per item.
Ever shrinking availability of bookcloth and color choices.
Difficult to get missed issues to complete volumes to bind.
Converting from paper forms to electronic options for ordering
Commercial bindery concern: Getting specific information on preferred/accurate jargon from vendor has been difficult. We're not always sure whether all of the pre-programmed ABLE options are still applicable, so there has been a bit of "winging it" with explaining to the vendor what we need.
Budget. We have not had a university-allocated budget for binding since [a number of years ago], and [a few years ago] all of our bound journals were moved to offsite storage. We are now being asked to reduce that footprint/expense so there are no plans to continue to bind our journals at this time.
Budget constraints and shelf space.
Budget & staffing
Bindery turnaround time is rather slow which makes it very difficult to send in frequently used materials such as course reserves or reference books.
Bindery software (ABLE) is obsolete, unintuitive, and just crude to begin with. Much the same could be said in some ways of our ILS (Alma). Altogether, it seems quite time-consuming for what it accomplishes.
Automation and streamlining of binding data creation, tracking, and integration with the library management system.

What services do you wish your library binder would offer that they currently do not?

Better quality on existing binding services.
Binding smaller lots -- our main library stopped binding periodicals and the music library still needs binding for the items we aren't equipped to do in-house, but we don't have [the minimum] items per month, or even per year because anything we can bind in-house we are doing in house to keep costs down.
Binding.
Color cover copying
Consistent delivery and pick up schedules, pricing transparency, improved communication channels, updated/improved user experience in the binding interface
Easier scheduling for drop-off/ pick-up days and times.
Easy way to send something rush and get it back in a timely manner.
Economy pricing for basic/standard size binding.
Flex mylar - it was cost effective and good enough - now we're forced to do Digicovers which are much more expensive and result in more work on our end such as replacing barcodes that no longer will read after binding is done.
I miss the Copy Covers that the Ohio plant did. It was the same cost of a book bind, but you got to keep the cover.
I am very satisfied with the services our binder provides. They offer everything I can envision using.
I wish we could send out very small numbers of items to the bindery without getting upcharged.
I'd like to see some improvements to ABLE! How can we get ABLE better integrated with the ILS?
-If we still had our local family bindery, pick-up and delivery would be great -Local binders are private practice book arts folks or conservators; expensive -HF Group is a big commercial bindery with lots of complicated workflows
Integration with Alma
Keeping the quality of services and avoid delays and mishandlings.
library corners, non-roman lettering for spines
More dependability on pick up and deliveries. Mostly our issues are with the pickup schedule. This has become very unreliable since COVID-19. Enough of a concern to investigate other options. Also price increases do not help.
More flexible pick-up & delivery options
N/A

n/a - they offer it all
No wishlist at this time.
None
None
None that I can think of
None. We have very basic needs and our binder meets them very well.
Nothing at this time; our binding program is just restarting after a 2-year hiatus due to COVID.
Our bindery is increasingly paring down their available options--I wish they would at least retain the services they offered 2 years ago.
Our current bindery will not bind recased music scores with pockets for parts. They will only do pockets with fan-glue score binding. I wish they had a better software for bindery processing. What I'm using currently is barely holding up.
Our needs are met
Quality of service has fallen significantly since Covid-canceling 3-4 pickups per year, more mistakes
Shipment pick up services - they used to be able to provide this but can't anymore.
Since we do not have an active bindery program this does not apply to us.
That we could send them single volumes for repair and they would mail them back and not charge a fortune, and not mess up the book by cutting off text, etc.
The color options for covers have been greatly reduced. There are more options like trimming and rounding that are still being offered, but at an additional charge and they are no longer done automatically.
The picking up of the heavy boxes of items to be bound from our location and delivering to bindery. Return delivery of bound items.
They currently cap the total number of pieces we send per month, resulting in backlogs on our end. We wish they had the capacity to remove the limit on pieces per month.
They offer all services we need, just not very good quality on some. Their double-fan adhesive bindings are usually very poor.
We are satisfied with our service
We are very, very lucky that our binder provides delivery and pickup service. They also are willing to bind pretty much anything we send. However, I wish they offered clearer pricing. We frequently get a lot of charges on each invoice (such as hours of special handling) that I can't explain to my supervisors/library leaders. I don't believe they are cheating us, but it does make it difficult to plan on our end when we never know which items will be classified as what or which ones will require extra work. I've tried asking for clarification multiple times, but our vendor usually gives vague answers that don't help very much. Honestly, I think they are nervous to talk about pricing and find it awkward. But clearer pricing would help so much on this end.
We do a lot of in-house repair and enclosures so we are happy with what they offer.
We'd love the availability of larger size digicover bindings.

## What haven't we asked about library binding that you would like to share with us?

<p>All of the landscape is moving and changing too fast to keep up with - more discussion would be welcome so we don't feel so all alone.</p>
<p>Any library binding that we had done at this library, a very small academic library with [very few] full-time staff (down from [more than double the] FTE 10 years ago), ceased being supported about 25 years ago due to budget cuts. Nearly all print subscriptions were cancelled in [a few years ago]. It would be informative to include some contextual data into the survey, such as overall library size, number of active print subscriptions, and overall budget.</p>
<p>At some point soon, budget constraints may prevent us from sending anything to the bindery at all. We don't have the time, staffing, or the knowledge to necessarily spend much time repairing books that we still need by hand. I understand that the cost of materials and labor is increasing all around, but at some point the cost of binding services will prevent us from sending much if anything at all.</p>
<p>Boxing/enclosures is listed on this survey as binding type. I did not include these numbers because they are not officially part of our binding program. Our current binder does not offer this service, but we do place orders with another vendor/binder. That workflow has also decreased dramatically since the pandemic, but boxing is frequently brought up as an alternative to binding when we talk about it.</p>
<p>Break down staffing levels question into percentage of time spent per FTE. For example, binding takes up 20% of one FTE.</p>
<p>Due to drastic budget cuts we have not been binding and it is a very great concern.</p>
<p>For the question about FTEs, we have one FTE person who has supervising students who sew items into pamphlets as part of many duties. Our student worker also has many duties, so it's hard to really put a number to the FTEs. for future surveys, the statistics questions need to be phrased better and separate out in-house from outsourced more clearly.</p>
<p>How do you transfer items to/from bindery? (Third-party shipping or pickup/delivery by vendor or Other). How many times per year do you send bindery shipments?</p>
<p>How much preservation or repairs are done in house to prolong circulation before items are sent to the bindery? What is the benchmark for damage before it gets sent?</p>
<p>How often are bound volumes used anymore? I am scared that so many people are not binding that we are losing things that disappear when publishers change, etc.</p>
<p>I included the cost of shipping TO the bindery in my totals because the bindery includes return shipping in the cost of the service.</p>
<p>I really am concerned about the library binding software. It is aging, and I don't see the resources to update or replace it.</p>
<p>I would just like to add that we switched from a large commercial binder to a smaller, family-owned binder. The larger business failed us totally during COVID, while the small binder was able to adjust.</p>
<p>If we used to bind and don't anymore and why. We used to send our paperbacks to be bound starting in the 1980s until the late 1990s. That practice was dropped due to budget reallocations. We used to bind serials into complete volumes from the 1980s to the early 2000s but was dropped for the same reason. Finally, we used to bind student theses from the 1970s to [a few years ago] but was dropped due to budget cuts and preferred online submission. We not make a paper copy with in-house paper binding (kept in storage).</p>

<p>I'm very worried about the binding industry - it was hard hit by the COVID shutdown in addition to dwindling business due to eResources. We still need them, but they may not be a viable business type anymore, and we may be left with no options/no services.</p>
<p>[About a decade ago] our full-time bindery staff retired. Many hundreds of titles were switched to online and no longer bound. A full-time periodicals staff assumed the duties of binding, which was changed from once a week to once a year.</p>
<p>In...2022 we stopped sending pamphlet binding to the bindery, partly due to limits on how much binding we can send per month, and partly due to cost. Previously pam binding, especially music scores, represented about 10% of our commercial binding workflow and we have since moved that process in-house. Starting with FY23, we are also moving other services such as pockets, in-house as a result of price increases.</p> <p>Also, in addition to meeting NISO standards (with the exception of using Summit instead of F grade Buckram), one of the most important considerations is whether the commercial bindery can pick up and drop off our binding shipments on-site to our library.</p>
<p>Internal bindery budgets are directly affected by the cost of binding materials from vendors, including supply/demand issues</p>
<p>Membership groups or pages that people can join whether they are part of ALA or not.</p>
<p>Our binding program is not limited to one unit. It is a collaborative effort between multiple specialized library departments and the centralized preservation unit.</p>
<p>The bindery symposium held last spring was quite wonderful!</p>
<p>The survey (being an ALA survey) doesn't account for a music library binding (i.e., music scores sewing/processing) done in-house, with staff and student labor. In my institution staff/students sew/process hundreds of items a year. The number varies per FY.</p>
<p>The survey assumptions don't meet our situation. We did indeed do binding in 2020, which was the last year we used commercial binding. Also, I don't need a copy of the report, but let us know where it is posted. Thanks!</p>
<p>We answered the "Are you satisfied with your current library binding services?" question as "neutral" for the following reason: we have learned to curate our shipments to the binder based on what we know we can expect out of production and quality, paring down the products we are opting to select from previous years/iterations of our binding program.</p>
<p>We do not use the library binder for custom enclosures but other vendors instead.</p>
<p>We restarted our binding program in FY22 but we don't count these items of expenditures until we are invoiced from the vendor and the pieces returned to us, which in this case didn't happen until [early FY23].</p> <p>It would be interesting to hear from other institutions what the turnaround times for each part of the workflow are. For us, we are seeing our materials off the shelf for as long as six months to get through the entire binding process.</p>
<p>Two questions were missing answers [choices] for FY2020...</p>

We stopped keeping detailed statistics on number. Judging more by what has gotten done and what still remains on the shelf. With our shift to electronic preferred, there is less of need, but when it is needed, we need to have service done well.
What percentage of libraries have no active binding program?
why did you ask everyone to respond but not have an option for no binding - [who does this anymore?]
With the move to electronic journals, we stopped binding journals in FY2012. We sent a few monographs for rebinding [for a few years]; however, we have stopped that as well. We can purchase a replacement item, in most cases, for less than it cost us to rebind.

Type of organization – “Other. Please describe:”

Religious archive
Medical Library

To whom does your bindery unit report? – “Other. Please describe:”

We no longer have a bindery unit/process
We don't have separate departments
We don't have a bindery unit. Responsibility of technical services
We do not have any such unit
There is no bindery unit per se, it is all done by technical services dept. partly in conjuncture with the archives dept.
Technical Services and Preservation
Serials librarian
Preservation and Electronic Continuing Resources
no binding unit
NA - no binding work here
N/A
N/A
Manager of Library Services
it was technical services, but now it's just part of
Head Librarian
Electronic & Continuing Resources
Do not have a bindery unit
director
Collections
Collection Services
Collection Management
Collection Development
both to serials and preservation units
Acquisitions

acquisitions
Acquisitions
Acquisitions
50:50-Tech Servs and Preservation

By your estimate, what percentage of your current library binding program is made up of each of the following material types? – “Other. Please describe:”

We have no binding program
We don't have an active program
unique services and tattle tapes
this was in the past - we are no longer binding anything
Spec Coll items/Preservation
no use of binding
Newspapers
newspapers
Internal documents
Facsimiles
Digicovers

If your institution has off site storage, do you regularly bind items going directly to storage from acquisition? – “Other. Please describe:”

Sometimes, criteria under development
No off-site storage
No off site storage
Maybe in a very rare case.
CMI boxes
A combination of bound and unbound sends

What are the reasons you are considering changing your policies for what you send to the binder? – “Other. Please describe:”

We have minimal print journal subscriptions, not sure we will continue to bind such a small quantity
We are moving away from binding serials that can stand to be shelved without a case cover.
Rethinking need, especially for high-density storage, and cost-effectiveness
Recently reviewed by non-collection librarians but now that we have a collections person again, I'm sure they will want to review
Policy change means almost all theses will be digital only (no longer need bound)
Not buying materials that need bound
No local bindery now

Issues with commercial bindery being unable to meet our needs
Increased vendor cost
Increased costs of services from the bindery outside of our budget constraints - a double whammy
Circulation of individual issues
Changing circulation patterns
Can't meet bindery minimums, no other binder in area
Bindery capacity
Bindery capabilities - no more copy covers, for example
Binder constraints

What type of library binder do you use? – “Other. Please describe:”

We used to use a small family-owned bindery, but they were bought by a large commercial bindery, then we stopped binding anything in 2009
we send out to a commercial bindery and bind some in-house
We no longer send items to be bound
We have stopped this process
Trappist monks
Small bindery owned by a large national group
Small Bindery and Institutional
None. Our former binder's minimum order is higher than we've accumulated over the last five years.
none
none
None
None
N/A
N/A
N/A
HF bindery (IN)
A university affiliated commercial bindery

Are you satisfied with your current library binding services? – “Other. Please describe:”

We were not very satisfied anymore - quality had gone down since small family bindery was purchased by large bindery
We stopped binding in 2021.
price just doubled so we are switching
No longer use a binder
N/A
N/A

N/A
n/a
looking for new bindery
Don't use one

Are you satisfied with current coverings (e.g., book cloths) that are available from your library binder? – “Other. Please describe:”

We kept having fewer and fewer choices, so no
They keep changing the covers - FMs to Digicovers (not equitable) and reducing colors of buckram available - annoying
No, grade of buckram reduced
N/A
N/A
n/a
limited colors due to supply chain issues
Library Summit isn't as good as Buckram
Do not use

Rank the issues of greatest concern regarding your library binding workflows – “Other. Please describe:”

We haven't done binding in 20 years and are concerned that we are too far behind the 8 ball.
Vendor charging for services that used to be part of a larger binding service - "nickel and diming"
Unclear pricing model from vendor (makes it hard to plan and budget)
Turnaround time at bindery
turnaround time
Quality of bindery product
policy change of no longer sending student personal copies of theses to be bound
out dated software
No one has time to come in the library. Bound materials sit unused. No point in having print anymore. Switched to online excepts for some books
No concerns
Increased in shipping costs

Would you like to continue this discussion? – “Other. Please describe:”

We have no experience with ALA groups devoted to this topic so can't recommend them either way. We have participated in a non-ALA-based discussions and found them useful.
--

No, largely because I am worried about saying these things in public and offending library leaders, supervisors, and vendors

I am not ala member but subscribe to PAIG and very interested in discussing the future of library binding

Have a Music Lib Assoc Binding discussion group

Currently there is a habit of binding discussions turning into a venting fest about HF Group, so something beyond that would be more valuable.

How often should a national survey on Library Binding be conducted? – “Other. Please describe:”

I can see value in several of these options

Every 3 years

Annually, in the summer when people have time to fill it out.

## Appendix E: Resources

The development of the survey team, and the resulting survey, was a direct result of two conversations at ALA. The Survey Team updated PAIG attendees on the survey at Midwinter 2022. Below are links to these resources.

### ALA Core Library Binding Survey Project Team Information

Survey Team home page in ALA Connect

<https://connect.ala.org/core/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=7f4c0bce-e6f4-45ef-b2d1-f3fecb5e7b29>

### ALA Annual Conference PAIG 2021 (June 26, 2021)

Following the news from library binders that library buckram would be replaced with Summit, many preservation librarians were concerned about the quality and longevity of the books bound in this material. The Preservation Administrators Interest Group (PAIG) agenda included a discussion regarding Summit's physical properties, and the difficulties library binders faced with supply quality and availability especially during Covid-19.

#### PAIG 2021 Meeting Agenda Slide Deck

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1izNDTYGKh2fOnTjhdPzBgtaO9dpprpBe/view>

#### PAIG 2021 Meeting Notes

[https://higherlogicdownload.s3-external-1.amazonaws.com/ALA/9129a953-9488-4e7c-a7e6-f197e1747dfe\\_file.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAVRDO7IEREB57R7MT&Expires=1673975459&Signature=2Ln0gAR39vZxEJzgLGt47EToYY%3D](https://higherlogicdownload.s3-external-1.amazonaws.com/ALA/9129a953-9488-4e7c-a7e6-f197e1747dfe_file.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAVRDO7IEREB57R7MT&Expires=1673975459&Signature=2Ln0gAR39vZxEJzgLGt47EToYY%3D)

### ALA Core Symposium on the Future of Library Binding (January 26, 2022)

In 2022, PAIG and the Preservation Standards & Practices Committee hosted a Core Symposium titled "Future of Library Binding." This symposium took the issue of book cloth one step further to discuss the current challenges of library binding, and how this preservation option might move into the future. A survey on current library binding practices was proposed after this meeting.

#### Symposium Recording

<https://alacorenews.org/2022/02/03/library-binding-symposium-recording-now-available/>

### ALA Midwinter Conference PAIG 2022 (June 17, 2022)

Mark Coulbourne and Beth Doyle gave a Survey Team update at PAIG Midwinter 2022. Miriam Nelson, PAIG co-chair, sent out the slide deck and Zoom recording links on ALA Connect.

**Miriam Nelson announcement on ALA Connect**

<https://connect.ala.org/core/discussion/paig-zoom-recording-and-call-for-a>

**PAIG Midwinter 2022 Slide Deck**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/188QdkHrYN\\_AxPZf5rMgcAg2khEtZIKbk](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/188QdkHrYN_AxPZf5rMgcAg2khEtZIKbk)

**PAIG Midwinter 2022 meeting recording (Survey Team update at 01:27:50 mark)**

[https://ala-events.zoom.us/rec/play/kvWdZLahHfE0LTTedyIkfrrDNK-IFDg5pW8Vh4JcD11y8jMojU4tATkpXuWnwLBcne5wz8YbjqzyE4dm.ly1\\_deUrAqMyhYp7?continueMode=true&xzm\\_rtaid=Xyxx3Wm1Ru-irj9NoLT5hg.1655991231740.1d8926cc20086b88c28a70c8396684ad&xzm\\_rhtaid=733](https://ala-events.zoom.us/rec/play/kvWdZLahHfE0LTTedyIkfrrDNK-IFDg5pW8Vh4JcD11y8jMojU4tATkpXuWnwLBcne5wz8YbjqzyE4dm.ly1_deUrAqMyhYp7?continueMode=true&xzm_rtaid=Xyxx3Wm1Ru-irj9NoLT5hg.1655991231740.1d8926cc20086b88c28a70c8396684ad&xzm_rhtaid=733)