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A quick guide to binding and professional printing at Ryman

Stand out from the crowd and make an impression with your dissertation, check out our list below that helps break down the differences between our services.



Comb Binding

This is a quick and simple method for binding any type of document. The comb spine is made of plastic and it is designed so that you can easily flip the pages round so the document can sit flat. As well as having a clear plastic front cover and coloured back cover, it also allows you to add or remove pages quickly if you ever need to - but can be a little fiddly. The maximum number of pages recommended for this type of binding and printing service is 145 pages, this would also be compatible with documents that are A5, A4 or A3 sizes. For your dissertation generally, A4 is the preferred size.



Click Binding

Click binding is similar to comb binding in terms of the suitability features, colours, but it uses a more durable plastic spine that clicks into place. Meaning that you can move or remove pages with a bit more ease. In relation to the design, when compared to the comb binding, the document can sit flat but it is a little trickier to flip the pages round.



Wire Binding

Wire binding gives a much more professional look. Many businesses tend to stick with this method when printing client reports and presentations, so if you want your dissertation to hold that industry look, this method is for you. Using a metal wire spine, it has the same benefits as the comb and click methods but would be a more permanent solution as it is much more durable. It will keep your pages together, protected for longer and you are not at risk of the pages loosening. The only downside is you would not be able to remove any of the pages once printed, and that the maximum number of pages recommended is slightly less than the others at 125 pages, which is enough to hold most undergraduate dissertations.



Thermal Binding

The thermal binding process is another excellent permanent binding service, it involves gluing the pages at the edge and then heat is used to bend the thermal spine round to securely clamp down the pages, making the pages very secure and less likely to rip. This method is more commonly used for formal documents such as those employed by law firms, accountancy firms etc... So again, very professional and a great alternative to wire binding. Regarding sizes, you can only get A4 documents thermally bound using the Ryman services, but the maximum page count that is recommended is up to 320 pages (depending on the paper thickness chosen), which would be ideal for a Ph.D. thesis. The only negatives are that you can't flip the document round at the spine and that you can't lay your book open flat.



Hardback Binding *(with Foiling)*

Hardback binding is an extremely popular and professional service for Masters and Ph.D. Thesis, which essentially turns any document into a solid book. The pages are expertly clamped into a metal spine and wrapped with a hardback outer layer and inner book paper layer that can be printed on with gold or silver foil to make more premium and personal. You can choose between two great cover styles, the first is "Buckram" which is a linen-like texture, and "Magister" offers a smoother silk-like finish. The great thing about this method is that your work will last a lot longer and it is presented in a way that gives it the same authority a hardback book has. You can even choose to have gold corners on your book, so much more of a statement and a fantastic way to show off work you are proud of.

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It is always advised that you bind more than one copy to ensure you have a backup or/and one to keep. What could be more rewarding than sentimentally reviewing your thesis years after you have finished your course, a great way to remember the blood, sweat and tears – that's why we want to offer you an exclusive discount of 20% to claim in store today!

We wish you luck! And remember you can visit any of our Ryman stores to see all of the different binding options, colour covers and finishes we have available or you can call **0800801901**, where one of our colleagues will be more than happy to talk you through the different options and the process.