

Fascicular Printing: Documents Composed and Printed One Page at a Time

INTRODUCTION

Laser printing was the first technology available for composing and printing pages one at a time. Now that inkjet, and more recently, electron beam printing have become significant in composing and printing documents one page at a time, a more general term would be useful to describe this type of printing. The term fascicular printing is available from antiquity, and may be useful to distinguish this type of printing from duplication on a printing press.

(In the middle ages, books were copied by hand. To increase the number of copies of a book that could be made at the same time, books were divided into fascicles of a few pages each. The size of the fascicles was chosen to facilitate the coping process and had nothing to do with the content of the book being copied.)

Current Fascicular Printing Technology

The Scitex (www.Scitex.com) MPS42 is a 21 hundred page per minute color inkjet printer. The Xerox (www.Xerox.com) DocuPrint 1300 is an electron beam printer rated at 13 hundred pages per minute. The electron beam technology introduced with the DocuPrint 1300 appears to have the capability to be incorporated in printers that can easily produce over 4 thousand pages per minute. The introduction of these two devices weighs in on the side of an increase in paper usage in the future. Also, with the introduction of a 2 thousand page per minute color printer, the need for color scanning will probably increase.

High Speed Fascicular Printing

High Speed (1 thousand pages per minute) fascicular printing is being used to print documents that have traditionally been produced by in-house or contracted print shops. These documents are becoming increasingly personalized, and are also growing in number of pages and in frequency of distribution. Manuals, such as equipment and procedure manuals, and forms are printed on the day they are requested so that update pages do not have to be inserted into preprinted (and almost immediately obsolete) off-the-shelf copies. Insurance contracts are printed along with the insured's name and any restrictions that may apply, eliminating both the need to update obsolete preprinted forms and also personalizing the forms to the individual insureds. Direct mail includes the most current offers and is personalized to the demographics of the recipients.

Xplor, a Fascicular Printing Association

Xplor International (www.Xplor.org) is a worldwide association with more than 5 thousand members and more than 29 hundred organizations that develop and use the technology of the US\$ 125 billion document systems industry. Xplor is the largest organization for managing and printing of fascicled documents (printed and composed one page at a time) on high-speed (over 1 thousand pages per minute) printing systems. Xplor is one of the many information-centric organizations making a contribution to document management.

Xplor's vendor organization members manufacture and sell the equipment to produce high quality, fine tuned documents, in high volume. Xplor members manage

these documents during the production process. The members of ARMA International (The Association of Records Managers and Administrators) (www.ARMA.org) and other information-centric professional organizations then manage these documents after the production process.

The Xplor 99 Show had many exhibits and conference sessions on document production systems and the management of those systems and documents. Knowledge Management was well represented in the presentations with a Keynote address by Tomas Koulopoulos, President, and Carl Frappaolo, EVP, of the Delphi Group and a half-day tutorial on Knowledge Management by Mark Tucker, Senior Consultant, of the Delphi Group. Document capture, archiving, indexing, and viewing were covered in several sessions. Doculabs presented a full day curriculum on EBPP (Electronic bill Presentment and Payment). The Internet, intranets, and extranets were presented along with document communications formats such as XML (eXtensible Markup Language) and Adobe PDF (Portable Document Format) that facilitate the fasciculation of documents. Details of black and white and color printing were explained. Management education at all levels was also available in many sessions.

Now in its 20th year, the Xplor show continued its record of strong technical, document management, and business management presentations and exhibits.

Note to Readers

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Please send your comments via email to SteveGilheany@ArchiveBuilders.com. Tel: +1 310-937-7000. Fax: +1 310-937-7001. Also, please let us know where you saw this article.

Acknowledgements

Reprinted from [Archive Planning](#), Volume 3, number 11, 1999, Archive Builders' analysis newsletter for document management.

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Note to Editors

Paper 22018v004

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Bio

Steve Gilheany, BA in Computer Science, MBA, MLS Specialization in Information Science, CDIA (Certified Document Imaging System Architect), AIIM Master (MIT), and AIIM Laureate (LIT), of Information Technologies, CRM (Certified Records Manager, ARMA) has eighteen years experience in document imaging and is a Sr. Systems Engineer at Archive Builders.

Author

Steve Gilheany is a Sr. Systems Engineer at Archive Builders. He has worked in digital document management and document imaging for seventeen years.

His experience in the application of document management and document imaging in industry includes: aerospace, banking, manufacturing, natural resources, petroleum refining, transportation, energy, federal, state, and local government, civil engineering, utilities, entertainment, commercial records centers, archives, non-profit development, education, and administrative, engineering, production, legal, and medical records management. At the same time, he has worked in product management for hypertext, for windows based user interface systems, for computer displays, for engineering drawing, letter size, microform, and color scanning, and for xerographic, photographic, newspaper, engineering drawing, and color printing.

In addition, he has nine years of experience in data center operations and database and computer communications systems design, programming, testing, and software configuration management. He has an MLS Specialization in Information Science and an MBA with a concentration in Computer and Information Systems from UCLA, a California Adult Education teaching credential, and a BA in Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. His industry certifications include: the CDIA (Certified Document Imaging System Architect) and the AIIM Master (MIT), and AIIM Laureate (LIT), of Information Technologies (from AIIM International, the Association of Information and Image Management, www.AIIM.org), and the CRM (Certified Records Manager) (from the ICRM, the Institute of Certified Records Managers, an affiliate of ARMA International, the Association of Records Managers and Administrators, www.ARMA.org).

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