

ANSI/NISO/LBC Z39.78-2000 (R2018)

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Library Binding

Abstract: Describes the technical specifications and materials specifications for first-time hardcover binding of serials publications and paperbound books for library use, and rebinding of hardcover books and serials intended for library use.

An American National Standard
Developed by the
National Information Standards Organization and the
Library Binding Institute (now known as the
Library Binding Committee of the Book Manufacturers' Institute)

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Foreword

(This foreword is not part of ANSI/NISO/LBC Z39.78-2000 (R2018), *Library Binding*. It is included for information only.)

About This Standard

This standard is the result of a collaboration between the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) and the Library Binding Committee of the Book Manufacturers' Institute (LBC), the principal trade association representing the library binding industry. ANSI/NISO/LBC Z39.78-2000 (R2018) is the first American National Standard for library binding. The committee charged with writing this standard included library binders, librarians, and suppliers of bookbinding materials.

The principal mission of the library binding industry is to extend the useful life of library books and periodicals. For decades, commercial binding services have been the chief preservation option (and often the only preservation option) available to most libraries. Considering the importance of these services to the library community, it is not surprising that binders and librarians have traditionally worked together to develop and maintain rigorous technical standards. Initial efforts to codify industry practice emphasized careful performance of all procedures, the use of high quality materials, and the value of a sturdy, economical end product. While the demand for affordable binding has dictated the gradual streamlining of production techniques and the introduction of automated procedures, the need to accommodate the variable nature and condition of library materials has always been recognized.

In the years following the establishment of the Library Binding Institute in 1935, eight editions of the Library Binding Institute Standard for Library Binding have been issued, each emphasizing quality of workmanship and materials and a discriminating approach to decision making. In 1986 the LBI Standard was substantially revised to acknowledge changing practice within the industry. Where strength was once the only yardstick against which library binding was measured, openability became equally important, as did conservative treatment of volumes with fragile paper. To address redefined objectives, sewing through the fold, double-fan adhesive binding, and recasing—once reserved for exceptional volumes—were incorporated into the LBI Standard as mainstream techniques. This broadening of the Standard, bolstered by improving technologies, maximized the binder's ability to take into account the structure, size, age, and condition of a volume when selecting a treatment method.

This reaffirmed standard builds upon the previous LBI standards and takes into account the corporate reorganization of the Library Binding Institute with the Book Manufacturers' Institute. Performance benchmarks are added to the Materials Specifications to encourage suppliers to develop superior materials and for binders to accept them. Concurrent with the development of this standard, several rounds of testing were conducted to support performance benchmarks and to provide a platform for additional improvement. A report on the testing project, *Performance Measures For Library Binding*, by Barclay W. Ogden and Robert J. Strauss (Minneapolis, MN: Library Binding Institute, 1995) is available from the LBC.

It is hoped that further advancements in technology, the availability of new products, and the increasing body of knowledge from which binders and librarians can draw, will stimulate further evolution of industry practice and the standard that defines it.

This standard was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the National Information Standards Organization. It was first balloted by the NISO Voting Members December 15, 1998 - January 31, 1999. It was reaffirmed in 2006 and again in 2011, with the most recent reaffirmation approved by NISO Voting Members on March 2, 2018 and by ANSI on March 16, 2018.

Suggestions for improving this standard are welcome. They should be sent to the National Information Standards Organization, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 302, Baltimore, MD 21211 (email: nisohq@niso.org).

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At the time this standard was reaffirmed in 2018, the following were members of the ANSI/NISO/LBC Z39.78-2000 (R201X) Review Voting Pool. NISO approval of this Standard does not necessarily imply that all Voting Members voted for its approval.

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