

Top of the class at BCQ Print

The growth in the production of short run, digitally books has led BCQ Print in Buckingham to install perfect binder and a Casematic hard cover maker Automation, specifically for this niche market.

The Casematic is a unique table-top machine, which produces personalised short-run hard covers of a quality that previously could only be achieved by a trade binder. The cover is printed onto a self-adhesive outer sheet and laminated for durability. The Casematic is used to mount the cover onto the grey boards and spine. The finished hardcover can then be bound onto the text block using the Fastbind Elite hot glue, perfect binder. The Elite has a spine roughening system to open up the fibres in text block, prior to the glue being applied to the spine. This produces high quality bind strength across a range of stocks.

“Previously we outsourced the case making but this type of works tends to come in peaks with a fast turnaround time. Besides the logistics of sending the finishing out and getting it back, we had to send three books together to make it cost effective for both parties. Now we have the equipment situated next to the two Xerox IGEN digital printers, so that we can finish and despatch each book immediately it is printed. This is important because in the last year we have quadrupled the number of year books we have produced and we are using the equipment every day,” said Julian Daniels, Digital Print Manager.

“Although in the ideal world, it would be great to automate the process, it wouldn’t make commercial sense because our run lengths are only between 50 and 200 books and there is a very significant price difference between these table top manual models and an automated machine. They are very simple and reliable machines to operate. Our finisher is very adept at using them and produces 200 good quality books a day from making the hard cover to the finished binding,” he commented.

“If we continue expanding this area of our business, we may look at buying binder, which would still be cheaper than purchasing an automated machine. Ashgate because they give us good service and supply the consumables.”

