



## Dear Dr. Book

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*Dear Dr. Book,*

*I just finished my dissertation for my Ph.D. and would like to have a copy bound. Where can I find a binder and what types of binding are available?*

*Recent Colorado State Grad*

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Dear Recent Grad,

You have several options for binding your dissertation depending on the type of use the volume is going to receive, your style preferences, and how much money you have to spend. The options include a craft bookbinder, a commercial library binder, and printers who may also offer binding services.

Through the centuries, bookbinding has evolved as books were considered works of art with illustrated covers, gilt page edges, and tooled leather bindings. Today, book craftsmen offer hand binding services that showcase such features in binding individual books or repairing old volumes, such as family Bibles.

If you have your paper bound by such a craftsman, the end product will be a traditionally bound book.

Today, machinery can print and bind books in a single and relatively inexpensive operation. The two copies of your dissertation you delivered to the University Libraries will be bound by our commercial binder before being sent to the shelves. Many commercial library binders will also bind for individuals, allowing you to choose from many types of binding and materials. A library binder would create a bound volume to your specifications.

Many printers, including “quick printers,” also offer binding services. For example, a local print shop offers: velobinding, spiral and coil binding, tape binding, and booklet binding. Velobinding holds the pages together between soft covers with two thin plastic strips pegged together along the spine. Spiral and coil binding hold pages together using a plastic or wire coil wound through a series of holes drilled into the pages. Tape binding glues the pages together along the spine with tape securing the front and back covers to the pages. Booklet binding is accomplished by folding the pages in half and stapling them into a soft cover. Booklets are limited by the number of pages that can be stapled together.

While Recent Grad’s question addressed binding a dissertation, this information applies to anyone with binding needs. The craft binders, library binders, and quick print companies are accustomed to individual requirements. Whether it’s a privately published book of poems for family members, a family genealogy, or a cookbook of treasured recipes, a binder can meet your specifications. To find a binder, check the yellow pages, or call University Libraries Preservation Services, Binding Section, (970) 491-1827 for a list of Library Binding Institute members.

For information on preservation topics, please write to “Dear Dr. Book” in care of the *University Libraries Newsletter*, Colorado State University Libraries, Fort Collins, CO 80523 or visit the Libraries Preservation Services Web site at: <http://lib.colostate.edu/preserv/>.

