CASE STUDY

"We feel the lightweight paper application provided by Lasermax Roll Systems has been a major success for us. It's truly a money saving venture."

Carol Holland, Manager of Production at BYU Digital Print Center

BYU Becomes a Lightweight Champion

Industry
Education

Application
Lightweight lesson manuals

Printers
Xerox DocuTech® 6135-LWP

Solution
DocuSheeter™ DT-LWP

With one of the largest independent study programs in the United States, Brigham Young University (BYU) serves more than 80,000 students throughout the world and works hard to make their courses affordable for anyone who wants to learn. Online and self-contained studies where students use lesson manuals rather than costly textbooks help keep fees low, but the major costs for the Independent Studies Department (ISD) to administer the program are the printing and mailing of course materials.

"Everything we print for Independent Studies must be mailed out to students and the Department is easily the University's biggest postal customer," said Carol Holland, manager of production at the University's Digital Print Center in Provo, Utah.

ISD is The Digital Center's second largest customer and last year ran 10 million impressions through their operation, eight million of which were printed on 20 pound white bond paper. In order to reduce postage costs, Holland advised the ISD to convert their lesson manuals from 20 pound bond to lighter weight 13.8 pound. ISD supported this decision, and Holland knew exactly where to turn — to Xerox and Lasermax Roll Systems, who have become partners in providing the technology needed to make the conversion a reality.

First, Xerox delivered a modified DocuTech® 6135 printer to The Digital Center. The customized DocuTech 6135 lightweight paper (LWP) printer achieves throughput that's comparable to the standard DocuTech 6135 without sacrificing speed or quality.

As an integrated element of the solution, The Digital Center also added a Lasermax Roll Systems DocuSheeter™ DT-LWP roll feed system to the DocuTech. The DocuSheeter DT works in conjunction with the DocuTech-LWP to increase cost savings and reliability as well as add productivity associated with roll feeding of lightweight paper.

"Since moving to lightweight paper,

"We've had no problems with running lightweight paper reliably with the equipment from Xerox and Lasermax Roll Systems."

we experienced immediate savings," Holland said. "The ISD's postal costs have been reduced by 15 percent and by the end of the first year that will result in a savings of tens of thousands of dollars for their department."

Buying lightweight paper in rolls also allows BYU to avoid the 20 percent or greater price premium associated with ream-wrapped lightweight sheets. TheDocuSheeter's three-hole punch option is very useful, too, as The Digital Center prints materials for ISD customers who organize their work in three-ring binders.

"Not only have we been able to reduce our paper costs but the DocuSheeter's three-hole punch option is an extra savings/bargain as it allows us to use less-expensive roll paper and do hole punches in-line," Holland said.

Manufactured by Lasermax Roll Systems, the DocuSheeter DT-LWP produces up to 80,000 lightweight sheets from a roll to continuously feed one DocuTech for hours. Stable in-line roll sheeting, with reduced sensitivity to environmental variables such as humidity swings, provides important reliability benefits for lightweight paper applications over standard feeding from reams.

"Our DocuSheeter has reduced jamming and the printer runs more reliably. It also acts as a high capacity input tray allowing our printer to run for a much longer period of time without having to stop the machine and load trays," said Holland. "We reduced our fleet of four DocuTechs to three but are able to produce the same amount of workload."

In addition, there's much less lifting and moving of paper so there's added productivity and a better working environment.

"For our ISD work we were originally lifting and moving eight tons of paper by hand every month," Holland said. "But now, because the rolls of paper are transported by cart and lifted into position by the DocuSheeter, we no longer have to un-box, stage or load the printer manually. Our operators love it."

Initially, Holland said they had concerns about the quality of the lightweight paper, but those worries were quickly dispelled.

"The paper itself is quite opaque," she said. "Even when you use a highlighter, as many students do when studying, it doesn't bleed through to the other side."

Holland was surprised with both the quality and "run-ability" of the lightweight paper.

"We would have never changed the application if ISD wasn't happy with the quality of the paper," she said. "We were in constant contact with the ISD throughout the entire process because we didn't want to do anything without their okay, but they were very supportive.

"And, we've had no problems with running lightweight paper reliably with the equipment from Xerox and Lasermax Roll Systems."

In the end, the conversion process went smoothly and the benefits have lived up to expectations all around.

"As they're one of our largest customers, we're always trying to find new and better ways to help the ISD be more efficient," Holland said. "We feel the lightweight paper application provided by Xerox and Lasermax Roll Systems has been a major success for us. It's truly a money saving venture that has helped BYU fulfill its mission of making independent study affordable to everyone."

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