

PROPOSED NISO WORK ITEM: *Revise ANSI/NISO/LBC Z39.78-2000 (R2018) Library Binding standard to adjust minimum specifications for cover materials that are suitable for library collections and reliably available for purchase.*

Proposal for Consideration by the NISO Voting Membership

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Approved by NISO Information Creation & Curation Topic Committee, March 20, 2020

Background and Problem Statement:

In 2000 the ANSI/NISO/LBI Standard, Z39.78-2000 *Library Binding* was published (recently reaffirmed as [ANSI/NISO/LBC Z39.78-2000 \(R2018\) Library Binding](#)). This Standard recognized the binding industry change to cover material with cotton/polyester base material with acrylic coating from 100% cotton base material with pyroxylin coating that had been specified since the original 1939 library binding standard published by the Library Binding Institute. The newer cotton polyester base material was significantly stronger than the cotton product that had been in use for over 60 years. However, the increase in performance was not specified because of a failure of cotton/pyroxylin Buckram books, but because the new cotton/polyester/acrylic cover material replaced the old product. In retrospect, the increase was not necessary or wise, given the 60-year history of successful performance of the previous product.

In February 2020 the sole supplier of Group F Buckram cover material announced that there would be no new manufacture of this material until May 2020. As inventory of Group F Buckram was low, the imminent unavailability of Buckram would cause library binders to cease production of library bindings or to seek alternative cover materials that did not meet the Standard. As future supply and reliable delivery of Group F Buckram is not assured, a reliable substitute is required.

Statement of Work:

- Project Goal: A revision to the Binding Standard to modify the minimum performance of cover materials as needed so that binders and libraries can meet the terms of contracts that require compliance with the Standard.
- Process: Appoint a Working Group
- Return on Investment: Libraries need revision to the Standard so they can purchase bindings that comply with the Standard and adhere to contract requirements.
- Engagement Plan: The Revised Standard will be circulated via NISO, American Library Association (ALA), Book Manufacturers' Institute/Library Binding Institute (BMI/LBC), libraries and library binders.

Partners and Participation:

The American Library Association, the Library of Congress, the BMI (Book Manufacturers' Institute), cover materials suppliers, and library binders all have a stake in a revision of the 2018 Binding Standard. This group includes the buyers of library bindings, the manufacturers of the product and the suppliers of the material used to make the product.

Timeline:

- Month 1: Appointment of Working Group
- Month 2: Completion of Draft; Formation of NISO Voting Pool
- Month 3: Topic Committee approval of revised standard
- Month 4: NISO Voting Pool Approval
- Month 5: ANSI Approval of Standard; NISO publication