

# Comparing options for thesis printing

It is important to print the pages yourself if any of the following apply.

1. *If colours/shading, etc of the printing is critical.*
2. *If you want special paper - for example a tinted paper rather than a plain white paper.*
3. *If your volume is a non-standard size or shape (i.e. Anything other than A4 portrait). We have, at this stage, only made arrangements for standard printing. The copycentre can cope with A3s and folding, too. If you are making an 'odd sized' book, it is important that you read our section on paper grain - see [Thesis Printing and Binding](#). Also note that we can trim pages down to size if you are printing on a larger size than you actually want to bind, as we have huge guillotines.*
4. *If for any reason you have concerns about the printing result.*
5. *If there is a VERY limited binding timeframe.*

## **Option 1 - Printing the pages yourself, and bringing your printed pages to 'The Bookbindery' store.**

**ADVANTAGES**

1. The main advantage and the reason we prefer this option is that you can check the pages after they are printed. This means you can ensure that print quality and page order is correct BEFORE we start binding. We regard this as very important. It also allows you to pick up on any formatting errors, etc, that you hadn't noticed on the screen - it always seems much easier to see them on a printed page than it does on the computer screen.

2. By coming to our store, you also get to see all the actual samples and are given greater choice in binding options - so it is easier to be sure that you are getting exactly what you want for the binding.

3. If you are needing your binding done urgently, then timeframe can also be another advantage in printing it yourself. While an urgent printing and delivery service is available (at extra cost), it is unlikely to beat arranging it yourself and bringing in the pages.

4. Many students can get printing done for nothing - through their workplace, university department, etc. (or at a subsidised rate). So cost is another possible advantage in printing it yourself - although I expect that what we charge for the printing is still cheaper than many printing places.

**DISADVANTAGES**

1. The main disadvantages is the lesser convenience of having to arrange the printing yourself, and also to bring the copies to our shop.

## **Option 2 - Printing the pages yourself, and then couriering your printed pages to 'The Bookbindery' store.**

**ADVANTAGES**

1. You do not have to visit The Bookbindery store, as we can also arrange the packing and courier for the completed volumes. This is a huge advantage for those who are from a distance away or who for any other reason cannot easily come to our store.

2. Advantages 1 and 4 (from Option 1) still apply. That is, importantly, you can check the printing is correct BEFORE we bind it, and also if you have subsidised printing you can still get the cost advantage.

**DISADVANTAGES**

1. The timeframe is normally longer due to having to wait for courier delivery (unless you are using an urgent courier service) and also extra time should be allowed just in case a courier is delayed.

2. You do not get to see the actual binding samples that we have at our shop, and choice is a little less as we can only give you options that we can easily show or explain online.

## **Option 3 - Having 'The Bookbindery' arrange the printing for you and completing all binding arrangements online and by email.**

**ADVANTAGES**

1. **Convenience.** You do not have to visit The Bookbindery store, pack up the printouts, or to worry about where/how to get the printing done. You can even arrange this if you are based overseas!

2. Printing done by a copycentre who specialises in printing academic documents. This may result in better printing than if you use lesser quality printing machines. 100gsm paper is used as standard - normally regarded as nicer to touch, and less 'see-through' when compared to ordinary photocopy paper.

**DISADVANTAGES**

1. Unless you visit our store once printing is complete (as many students have done), you cannot see the printing, so as to check it, before binding starts.

2. Similarly to the above, unless you visit our store, you do not get to see the actual binding samples that we have at our shop. Choice is a little less as we can only give you options that we can easily show or explain online.

3. Not normally quite as fast as printing it yourself and bringing the copies to us. This is only likely to be a problem if your thesis is urgently needed, as if we have at least 3 full working days we do our best to incorporate the printing timeframe within this time.