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Article: Characterization of Inkjet Output Media...or How to Hit a Moving Target  
(Abstract)

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*Topics in Photographic Preservation, Volume 16.*

Pages: 167

Compiler: Jessica Keister

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## **Characterization of Inkjet Output Media...or How to Hit a Moving Target**

**Monique Fischer**

*Presented at the 2015 PMG Winter Meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Inkjet papers are coated specialty papers suitable for fine art, photography, technical and graphic media, proofing, or signage used in every industry. They consist of different thicknesses, weights, textures, finishes, sizes, coatings, and substrates, and are used for a myriad of applications. It is this variety and diversity of media, which can make it difficult to sort out the long-term stability of these papers.

In chemical photography, the characteristics and permanency of a process is understood when a term like, gelatin silver print, is used. Even chromogenic color prints can provide a definition of permanency when the reverse of the paper states it has been printed on Fuji Crystal Archive color paper. Unfortunately, using the words inkjet print does not offer the same information and security yet. Over time, many of these prints will find their way into libraries, archival collections, and museums. It will be important to have an in-depth understanding of the main factors that impact inkjet permanency.

The aim of this investigation is to discuss the creation of a database of the many commercially available inkjet papers on the market. Papers were collected and different properties such as thickness, weight, texture, finishes, coatings, optical brightening agents, and types of substrates were examined and characterized. As a sidebar, it is hoped that this investigation will also provide discussions about the nomenclature used to describe these materials, look for trends, unique deterioration characteristics, and help provide a definition for “archival” inkjet print.

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