

News

HF Group Acquires Hoster Bindery, Inc.

As of February 20, HF Group acquired the assets and customer base of Hoster Bindery, Inc., located in Ivyland, Pennsylvania.

Hoster Bindery has been in the edition binding business for 34 years and we look forward to working with Hoster's customers to meet their future edition binding and digital printing needs.

[Click here to read the press release...](#)

AssureVault Division Featured in Geauga Business Magazine

HF Group and its AssureVault division were recently featured in an article entitled, "Reinventing an Industry," in the Winter, 2014, issue of Geauga Business magazine.

Included in the article was a review of the ways in which HF Group has changed to keep pace with the times, as well as an in-depth look at the technology-based services provided by AssureVault.

[Click here to read the article...](#)

Reinventing an Industry

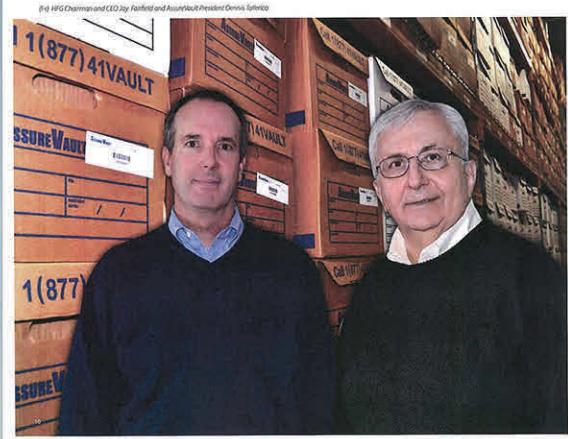
The HF Group & AssureVault
Diversify Product Mix to Meet Today's IT Needs

By Maggie Wilcox

Restructuring, evolving, reinvention – these words best describe The HF Group's history, which dates back to 1883. With the expansion of the digital age, paper, print, and bookbinding have become a dying industry. To compete and even survive, HF Group (FifG), headquartered in Cheshireland, has diversified and altered the company's path in order to address the changing information needs of the 21st century.

Today, HF includes:

- Active Binding (Library and Trade bookbinding)
- Etherington Conservation Services (conservation treatment of paper-based historical artifacts)
- J.W. Parkhill (short-run and on-demand digital book production)
- Digital Conversion Solutions (books, paper and document; scanning and conversion)
- RecordsSave (secure records restoration and reformatting)
- AssureVault (records and data storage, content hosting, online backup & disaster recovery)



Project Highlights

1901 Gravure Book

We recently discovered a copy of the 1901 book, *White House Gallery of Official Portraits of the Presidents*, which had been abandoned by a customer. The large (16" x 19-5/8") volume, published by Gravure, contained 24 striking photogravures of American Presidential portraits from Washington to McKinley. Each portrait is presented along with a page of biographical text, presenting "accurately and authoritatively the really great accomplishments of each administration."

"The official portraits of the Presidents as they hang in the White House have been selected from time to time as the best of each of our Chief Executives. Most of them have been painted by order of Congress, the artists being selected for their skill and reputation, and in most instances on account of their great personal knowledge of their subjects."

We felt that the best place for the book would be an institution but there didn't seem to be a single, logical place to send it in its entirety. After careful consideration, we decided to disbind the volume and donate the portrait pages, with their accompanying biographies, to the presidential libraries, museums and archives throughout the country.



BEHIND THE SCENES

ABLE Library, Over the Years

During the mid- to late-1980s, a number of bindery automation systems emerged onto the scene in order to help librarians and binders meet the challenges of bindery preparation. ABLE was one of those early systems, as was its widely-used counterpart, LARS.

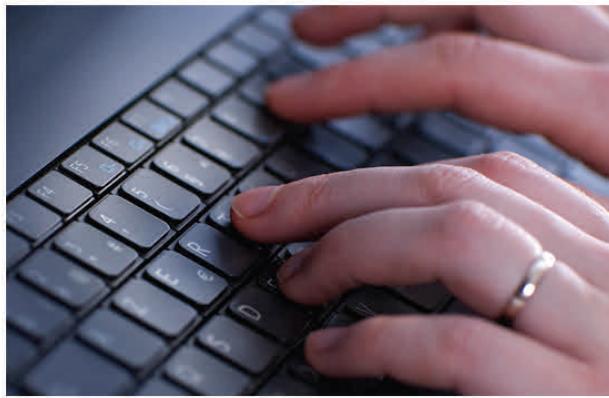
ABLE began as a DOS-based application with Windows-like interface. As rudimentary as it now seems, having the ability to enter and retain binding data electronically was a big improvement over the use of preprinted binding slips on which binding information had to be hand-written or typed.

In the early 1990s ABLE was upgraded to run on Windows 3.x and offered peer-to-peer networking capabilities – a big breakthrough at the time. Over time, it was upgraded to run as a Windows server-based application that could be accessed throughout an institution's internal network. While this was significant, libraries and binders still dealt with the maintenance, hardware and support issues associated with local installations.

By the turn of the century, the use of the World Wide Web had increased significantly, leading to the development of ABLE 6, a browser based version of ABLE. ABLE 6 was extremely popular and binders eagerly migrated libraries' local ABLE data to the web. Meanwhile, libraries using LARS were bound to the local server-based model as LARS had not been updated since the mid-1990s. The largest of those libraries was the Library of Congress.

In 2009, Library of Congress began working with HF Group and ABLE Ventures, LLC (owner of ABLE) to develop a specification for enhancements to ABLE that would allow it to satisfy the particular needs of the Library's extensive library binding operation. The Library assembled an enhancement team, made up of key individuals who had expertise in specific segments of the overall process. Working with HF Group and Level 7 (official ABLE programmer), the team worked diligently on the project for several years, conducting extensive testing and providing vital feedback. At the end of March, 2012, the Library of Congress began production with ABLE 7.

Currently libraries that are binding in our Ohio and North Carolina plants are using ABLE 7 for bindery preparation. We are planning to migrate library accounts served by our Indiana and Massachusetts facilities by spring of 2014.



PEOPLE

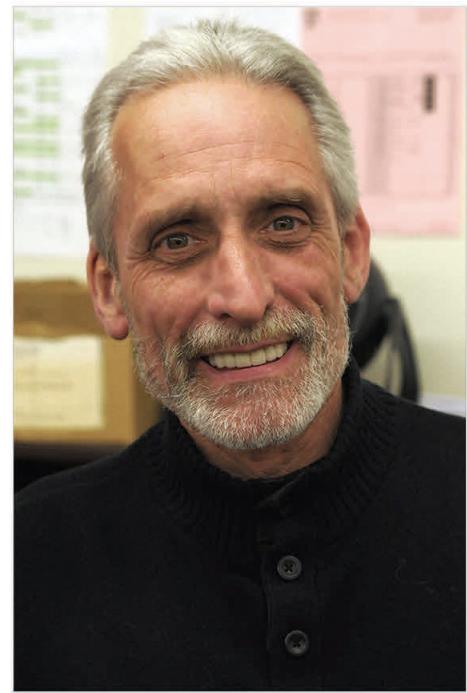
Featuring Andy Selheimer

Andy Selheimer manages the former Hatfield bindery's territory for the HF Group- AcmeBinding division in Charlestown, Massachusetts. The territory includes accounts in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. His duties include picking up and delivering work for our customers, customer service as it relates to transportation, coordinating weekly truck trades in New York state and Charlestown, managing one employee, scheduling trips and maintaining our fleet of vehicles.

Andy came to HF Group when he answered an ad in the local paper and was hired the same day. On March 11, he celebrates his 34 year anniversary with the company.

Andy is a Philadelphia native and currently resides in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, with his wife of 27 years, Kathy, and their 17 year old daughter, Hannah.

He is a graduate of Slippery Rock State College and life-time member of the Rho Iota Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national History Honor Society. (His original plans were to be a history teacher.)



When he's not working, Andy plies used record stores in search of albums to add to his collection that is approaching 1,000 albums. His collection of vinyl is primarily rock music, with some jazz and blues, from the 60s, 70s, and 80s. He also attends 15-20 Philadelphia Phillies games each summer, enjoys reading about historical topics, and coaches youth basketball.

"Our company has been very fortunate to have Andy on the team for so many years, and he has made many contributions to sales, customer services, transportation and logistics. Andy has also been a go-to person when a new driver-sales rep needed training or assistance."

"He is not only a dedicated employee, but a concerned and caring advocate for our customers. His personal relationships across a wide variety of library customers is admirable and we hear regularly how many of them appreciate and value Andy's service."

Jay Fairfield, CEO



MISC

Staying in Touch

The winter of 2013– 2014 has brought a much higher than usual number of facility closings due to weather and utility issues.

If you're trying to reach us but don't get a response, check the news section of our website - www.hfgroup.com - for facility closing notifications. And we'll be back to you as soon as possible!

ABOUT HF GROUP

HF Group is a recognized leader in the information industry, providing expert services in the care, delivery and preservation of information and cultural artifacts of many kinds. We operate four multi-functional strategically located production sites and three transportation hubs throughout the US.

To learn more, visit us online at www.hfgroup.com!