

Interesting Projects: Challenged by the established process of oversewing books, new methods had to be found. The double fan adhesive binding process, already widely used in Europe needed to be introduced in North America. LBI did sponsor Werner to study the adhesives used for this process and most of all, to study its longevity. His research found, that such adhesives most likely will last over 500 years. Librarians first did not believe his research and requested a repeat by two well-known preservation experts, Barkley Odgen and Robert Strauss. They came up with the same results. These days, over 90% of all library bindings are done using the double fan binding process. Newer adhesives, like PUR (Polyurethane) will last even longer.

Associations: Werner gave several presentations at American Library Association Conferences about various binding processes and introduced librarians to the materials used. He worked with groups developing revised Library Binding Standards at outset. Werner was a strict proponent of a performance-based standard.

Career: Werner can look back to a 65 year long career as a Bookbinding expert. Moving from a most successful industry career into the academia, sharing his wide-ranging experiences with students, industry seminar participants and librarians.