

# **The Espresso Book Machine at Michigan State University Libraries**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the Espresso Book Machine at Michigan State University Libraries?**

The Espresso Book Machine (or EBM) doesn't make coffee – the EBM is a completely self-contained book publishing machine. The EBM can print anything from your family cook book to a novel you've written or have selected from our catalogue. The machine will print, bind, and trim a book within minutes – it will do this for virtually any book.

**Where is the EBM located?**

The EBM is located in the Copy Center in the Main Library. The Copy Center is on the second floor of the west wing.

**How does it operate? What is the basic process?**

The EBM first prints your pages on a high speed copier. Then, pages (called the book block) enter the Espresso Book Machine and are prepared for binding. While the book block is printing, a full color cover is printed from an inkjet printer and is automatically fed into the EBM. The book is then formed by gluing the book block to the cover page – this forms the spine and the cover is clamped against the spine and pages to create a perfect-bound book. Then, in one motion, the newly joined book block and cover page are trimmed to your exact specifications. The book then travels to the pick-up slot for retrieval.

**Who is able to use the EBM? Do I have to be a student or MSU staff/faculty?**

Anyone is able to use the EBM. However, the machine will be for use by Library staff for a short trial period. We hope to have it publicly available in the coming months.

**Can I see the EBM in action?**

Yes! The machine runs during normal Copy Center hours and is fully accessible to see up close.

**Can I receive help with formatting my book block and/or cover?**

Yes! There is a dedicated staff position for the EBM that will be available during posted hours to help you with any EBM needs.

**How long will it take to print my book?**

The actual book will print in less than ten minutes, but it is unsure what the turnaround time will be from ordering to pick-up. If you require help with document set up, please allow for extra time in addition to the ten minute average.

**Are there templates available for formatting the book block and cover?**

Yes, on the EBM at MSU webpage there are templates for both – they cover a range of common and standard book sizes. They still require some manual formatting based on your book length/spine size. If you would like help with this, just call the Copy Center and ask for the EBM staff.

**Are there pre-made covers I can choose from if I don't want to design my own?**

Yes! The EBM staff is developing a few covers you can choose from when printing your book. They are full color and have a few option for fonts and colors. Just make sure you let the staff know that you will be selecting a pre-made option.

**Where can I learn more technical information about the machine?**

You can either speak with the EBM staff or look on the manufacturer's website. On Demand Books developed the EBM and Xerox manufactures the high-speed copy machine used to print the book block. The inkjet printer is made by Epson and prints your cover on 11x17 glossy coverstock.