

ARCHIVE

We collect and restore historic letterpress printing equipment. Our collection includes 3 floor-model presses (2 Vandercooks, 1 Chandler and Price), over 200 cases of metal and wood type, and a range of typographical tools. We ascribe to the philosophy of preservation through production.

LAB

We experiment with modern methods to bring new life to an ostensibly obsolete technology. Our researchers are expanding the possibilities for fabricating type and printing plates with 3-D printing, laser cutting, CNC machine tools, and photomechanical processes.

STUDIO

We make things with letters and words: posters, broadsides, and books. When major publishing companies abandoned letterpress in the 1970s, artists and small literary publishers seized upon the industrial equipment, founding collaboratives around discarded tools. Like them, we aim to find value in unlikely places.

WORKSHOP

We know that a printer is more than simply a duplicator. To print in letterpress means to work as designer and production specialist—to develop a layout and physically produce the print. We embrace the little challenges of working in an old medium. Never perfection, we strive for excellence at scale.



What is this
place, and
what do you
do?



print**bay**

The Print Bay is an interdisciplinary center for the experiential study of movable-type printing. The space offers participants a first-hand look at the historic letterpress process—transferring ink onto paper with raised metal or wood type. Rather than re-enact the past, our goal is to revitalize it, with the help of modern tools. Using CNC mills, laser cutters, additive manufacturing, and photomechanical processes, we harness the precision and efficiency of the digital to expand appreciation for the warmth and beauty of the analog. In addition to posters, books, flyers, and ephemera; we produce the conditions for playful collaboration among the humanities, fine arts, and STEM fields.

The PrintBay is a teaching studio, not a general-purpose makerspace.

To get involved, make an appointment by emailing the director, Dr. J. Peter Moore at moore708@purdue.edu; or look for one of the following opportunities.

Enroll in a PrintBay Course

Dr. Moore offers various print-related Honors College courses (open to all students, preferential registration for HC students). These courses include Fall Break and Spring Break immersive experiences (HONR 299), as well as the First-Year Experience seminar (19902), and a 16-week course on small-press publishing.

Attend an Open Studio Event

Throughout the semester the PrintBay opens for the public. These events may include interactive activities, presentations for guest artists, or information sessions on letterpress printing. To receive notifications, contact PrintBay direction, Dr. J. Peter Moore at moore708@purdue.edu.

Request a Demonstration for your Group or Class

The PrintBay offers interactive workshops to meet the needs of various groups. We provide supplementary course experiences, team-building activities, and promotional poster design sessions. If you are faculty, staff, student or a member of the West Lafayette community; you can find out more about scheduling a demonstration for your group, by contacting PrintBay director, Dr. J. Peter Moore at moore708@purdue.edu

Order a Custom Print

We are building capacity as a full-service design and poster production shop. If you are a Purdue-affiliated group and have the need for a letterpress print (poster, broadside, flyer, business card) contact us to find out more about costs and turn-around time. We offer one-, two-, and three-color poster designs, with minimum and maximum orders set at 50 and 250. Our typical poster is 12.5 x 18, but we have the capability to print a 15 ¼ x 24 sheet. For more information, contact PrintBay director, Dr. J. Peter Moore at moore708@purdue.edu

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