

HAVE PHOTO ALBUMS HAD THEIR DAY?

Digital photography has brought many changes to the ways in which photos are being printed and kept. Although more photos are being taken, with great new low cost cameras and even mobile phones, the sales of photo albums have plummeted. The reasons are obvious. The ease of keeping pictures on your hard disk or on CD's is appealing and everyone is doing it.

What many people and even some archives do not seem to know or understand is that for long term storage of photos, computer hard disks and CD's are not suitable. It is necessary to keep hard copies, slides and negatives in albums if the objective is to keep them for future generations.

Computer technology and programs are changing rapidly and if photos are required to be kept for many years it is a sure bet that your computer of the future will not be compatible with the programs of today. Keeping photos on CD's is also increasingly popular and convenient but again it is not a good solution for long term storage according to German Physicist and data control expert Kurt Gerecke. He is reported as saying that burned CD's will not last long, vary with quality, and do not offer a long term archiving solution.

The problem with photo albums is that they have not kept pace with the times. It is not so long since the shocking "Sticky" and "Magnetic" albums and albums made of PVC were replaced in the market with products that were more photo-safe. But the typical album sizes were and still are designed for display and the coffee table. When the time comes for filing them they are an awkward size for both the home and archive shelving.

When it comes to filing slides and negatives even professional archives have had to resort to using such things as steel filing cabinets and suspension files – not the ideal things to have in archives.

And now a new factor has entered the scene – "Sustainability". There is international agreement that we must all reduce the cutting down of trees and increase recyclability of the things that we use. How do photo albums made of paper and with metal rings score? Very badly.

THE ANSWER

Albums have not had their day. They are, the best ones, still the only way to go for keeping photographics long term. But new and better designs of albums are needed to meet today's standards.

There is one company in Australia that has lead the world in meeting the challenge of producing better and "Sustainable" albums.

Over a decade ago Albox Australia Pty Ltd introduced significant improvements in ways to keep and display photographic items. The albums were fitted with nylon rings. Pages for practically all sizes of photos, negatives and slides were designed to fit those albums. In response to requests from Professional Conservators, Albox also designed a box and file tray style album to enable the pages to be hung in suspension rather than being laid flat or hung from vertical spines in the albums.

All of these products feature polypropylene in both the pages and the album covers. The entire Albox system is 100% recyclable, acid free, metal free and adhesive free. Because of the use of polypropylene the Albox systems conform to "Sustainability" requirements. This Albox system is now widely used by archives, libraries, genealogists and homes throughout Australia. Exports are growing.



AND NOW ALBOX HAS DONE IT AGAIN.

ALBOX "EVERLASTING" FOLDERS ARE A SIGNIFICANT EVOLUTION IN THE ARCHIVING/DISPLAY OF PHOTOGRAPHICS TODAY.



Everlasting, the title chosen for this system, relates to the beautiful, enduring Australian wildflower of that name.

Using the experience it has gained from years in the industry and the advice of many Conservators, Archivists and Records Managers, Albox has now developed an additional archiving system. This new "Everlasting" system addresses the following criteria:

- All pages will be hung in suspension.
- A new type of folder will provide easier file management, access and display and can be stored/filed/archived very efficiently.
- The new system will be compatible with storage boxes for archive shelving.
- The new system will offer lower costs.
- The Albox "Sustainability" standards of metal free, acid free and adhesive free are maintained.

The reason that Albox developed this new additional system was because Conservators pointed out that many photo albums (other than those from Albox) are designed primarily for the retail market. They are often bulky and often larger than necessary for displaying a particular subject. They can be pretty but expensive per album and they are not usually able to be filed with the pages in suspension. They have metal rings and do not meet archival standards. The Albox albums overcame many of these problems but the ever innovative Albox has created another option in their product range to include the added desirable features for including effective long term archival storage.

THE "EVERLASTING" DISPLAY FOLDERS ARE DESIGNED TO HOLD THE VARIOUS ALBOX PHOTO PAGES



These folders will be supplied with 12 pages of the type required. This means 96 6"x4" photos in each folder if those are pages that are chosen from the wide range available. Each page has its own suspension rod. The rods and pages can

be removed from the folder. The folder spines and covers can be written on - permanent marker pens recommended. The suspension rod just slides into the slot provided in the many page options.



Six of the folders fit into a 180mm wide Albox archive box which is designed to fit standard archival shelving. The box has an index card pocket on the end. Five folders fit into the lighter 150mm Albox archive box.

The result of this system is a modular space saving unit that overcomes the problem in archives of what to do with albums. The old practice of using metal filing cabinets for storing albums and suspension filing with steel rods is clearly undesirable. Conventional albums are not compatible with standard archive shelving and thus not space efficient.

ALL COMPONENTS OF THE EVERLASTING SYSTEM HAVE PASSED THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ACTIVITY TEST BY NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA.



THIS NEW SYSTEM FOR KEEPING/DISPLAYING PHOTOS WILL HAVE PARTICULAR APPEAL TO SCRAPBOOKERS AND THE HOME BUYER

The display folder covers are sufficiently flexible to allow the addition of slip covers. Very simple instructions to make them are provided. Materials used can also be beaded or embroidered. **Albox does not supply fabric slip-covers.** The file covers, as mentioned before, can also be written on and used for creative decorating artwork.



Albox has now shown that:
photo albums have not had their day, they have just come of age.

The Everlasting folders are supplied with 12 pages of the same style in each. They can be purchased as individual folders or as a pack of five folders in an archive box - pictured earlier. Larger quantities can be purchased in cartons of 5 archive boxes containing 25 folders in total. Pallet quantities can also be ordered with 18 cartons per pallet.

Orders can be placed by email (albox@albox.com.au) or using our website www.albox.com.au in A\$ - US\$ - £Stg - or other currencies on application.

Delivery to your door by air can be made within 10 days for stock items. We are as convenient as your local suppliers and we speak your language.

You will find that our prices including delivery are very, very competitive.



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