Learn the Secrets of Savvy Printers

Many printers struggle to stay in business while others succeed and thrive. Learn what savvy printers are doing and identify new techniques and strategies for success in 2012. Visit www.OceWowFactor.com to download the FREE Secrets of Savvy Printers booklet.

2012: Embracing Change and Innovation

The start of a new year is a time to contemplate what the future will bring. Mal Baboyian, President of Océ Production Printing Systems and a 30+ year Océ veteran, expects 2012 to be a year of great promise. “People have been predicting that the paperless office and digital media would spell the death of the printing industry for years, but it is still alive and kicking,” he says. “As I look forward to 2012, I see that the industry has undergone significant changes… but there is still tremendous opportunity. The key is embracing change and developing new, innovative technologies.”

Baboyian highlighted three key areas of focus that will drive the success of service providers in 2012:

1. Participation in the cross-media world: Expectations of marketing results are rising, while budgets are either being reduced or moved to new, more observable channels. Cross-media promotion is a way for marketers to both improve their marketing ROI and gain more visibility. “If you haven’t invested in robust technology platforms to power cross-media marketing services, this is the year to move forward,” Baboyian says. “There are a number of great software tools available. Cross-media is the new reality… and it’s time to get in the game!”

2. A focus on applications that will move from offset to digital… now: Baboyian predicts that inkjet printing will become even faster and cheaper as time goes on, and significant quality improvements will occur all the while. He explains, “This means that more and more jobs will migrate to inkjet. The new high-speed inkjet presses will challenge offset for many applications, including books, magazines, and direct mail for long run lengths. It is time for printers to assess applications that can easily migrate from offset to inkjet, while also ensuring that they have the right capital investment strategy in place.”

3. Efficiency reigns: With the growth in customized communications and ever-shorter runs, streamlining workflow is critical to the overall print operation. According to Baboyian, “Automated workflow solutions are no longer a pipe dream. For the printing companies that have automated operations, the bottom-line results are already starting to show.”
An Application Approach to the Market
When asked about how Océ will help its customers capitalize on the market opportunity, Baboyian indicated that education and training internally and externally will be a key focus. He notes, “We will educate our people internally about new technologies, but more importantly on how to help customers deploy solutions that enhance their profitability. Océ has established a team of Solutions Architects that work closely with our sales teams and customers to design the right applications and workflow to meet customer needs.”

Baboyian believes that there is a strong need for customer education. He reports, “We are going to invest in educating our customers, make the industry more aware of the impact that workflow has on business, and explain how to effectively deploy technology. Service providers also need support in business development. Whether it is personalized direct mail, TransPromo, or books on-demand, service providers need education on how to sell and deliver the right applications to their client base.”

The Bottom Line
Success in 2012 will be directly linked to delivering innovative and relevant communications programs that leverage a mix of media types. Baboyian concludes, “Printing is a critical part of the offering, but it is only part of it. Regardless of the application, service providers need the right tools and technologies for delivering the right messages via the right channels at the right time.”

Print is in the Mix, but Cross-Media Reigns
Print is an integral part of SourceLink’s overall services offering. In addition to a number of Océ continuous-feed monochrome laser devices, the company will install the first Océ ColorStream® 3500 inkjet printing system in the U.S. market. Commenting on the investment, McKenzie notes, “The Océ ColorStream 3500 system will become part of our multi-channel marketing environment and provide fast, versatile, high-quality color to drive return on marketing investment for our clients. The recent innovations in continuous, full-color variable printing have greatly reduced the cost of color personalization, while also giving service providers and marketers the ability to communicate to diverse market segments in a shorter period of time, i.e., fast presses, data-driven enhanced targeting, lower cost per impression, and very quick turn times.”

SourceLink has combined print with other media to create a full cross-media services portfolio. McKenzie states, “We clearly understand that print is not enough. One of our biggest assets is our ability to provide extensive data services. Marketers can no longer afford to make broad generalizations about their targets… they need to leverage the data at hand (and most have it) into a highly personalized and engaging message.”

SourceLink is positioned to be a partner that thoroughly understands data, digital asset management, and how to coordinate complex campaign metrics into an automated marketing platform. “We have truly entered the age of the consumer,” McKenzie observes. “As marketers, we must not forget that our customers and prospects are not the audience, but active participants in the conversation. We are marketing to highly engaged individuals with more choices, offers, and product research at their fingertips than ever before. It really is about science and imagination.”

Visit www.SourceLink.com to learn more.

Science + Imagination = Illumination

Marketers of all sizes are seeking providers that can create data-driven programs to acquire new customers, cross-sell and up-sell to existing customers, nurture new leads, increase customer satisfaction, and retain customers. Fundamentally, today’s marketers want to add science to the art of marketing. SourceLink is a new breed of service provider that supports marketers with a solid mix of services that unite marketing creativity with marketing science.

“We blend the science of data with imagination. It all starts with data because data is what drives understanding and customer insight,” explains SourceLink President and CEO Don McKenzie. “From there, we work with our customers to design and deliver what we call ‘illuminated’ customer communications programs.”

SourceLink is a results-driven marketing communications organization with six locations across the United States. According to McKenzie, “The organization was created through a roll-up of firms with expertise in agency services, data-driven direct marketing, direct mail production, and transactional document outsourcing solutions. We have revenues in excess of $70 million and employ more than 400 people. Our capabilities include agency services, modeling, and analytics with traditional and online communication channels. All of these services are designed to improve marketing ROI through greater relevance and increased response. We have also created solutions to reduce costs through more efficient operations and postal optimization.”

The company recently introduced an electronic billing presentation and payment service called BLINK. This tool can efficiently allow users to have secure, authorized access to billing statements and notices by utilizing an existing and familiar online framework.

Visit www.OceWowFactor.com to:

Download the Océ ColorStream 3500 product brochure.
Print service providers have repeatedly heard that the key to survival is expanding their offerings beyond print to include a host of media options backed by marketing services. Unfortunately, this message is seldom backed by solid how-to strategies. InfoTrends conducted a research study titled, *The Evolution of the Cross-Media Marketing Services Provider* to assess the current state of the shift toward cross-media marketing services and identify the best practices for successfully making the transition.

This research study surveyed more than 280 firms offering cross-media marketing services. It also conducted telephone interviews with 30 profitable firms that made the cross-media transition. The research revealed the following top ten best practices for making the move to cross-media services:

1. **A leadership focus on marketing and business development:** Firms offering cross-media marketing were more focused on sales, marketing, and business development.

2. **Repositioning:** If you smell like a printer, marketers will run! Firms offering cross-media marketing services were more likely to describe themselves as cross-media marketing service providers or marketing service providers. The majority of interviewed firms repositioned themselves by dropping print from their name, keeping print but adding other descriptors, or creating a spin-off company.

3. **Identify and solve a chronic business problem:** Firms that have successfully evolved into cross-media marketing service providers reported that a key catalyst to capturing business is identifying a unique business problem in a particular market and solving it.

4. **The conversation is on the solutions – tactics, strategies, and goals – NOT print:** The trick is to focus clients on the actual solution and its potential results rather than stressing the print component. A common message among leading cross-media marketing services firms was to stop talking about printing and frame the discussion into business language that solves the client’s problem, such as:
   - Driving in-store traffic and revenue per store
   - Re-igniting relationships with orphan customers
   - Speeding up and automating the moving parts of complex and fast-moving campaigns

5. **Walk the walk and self-promote:** Educating customers and demonstrating credibility are critical success factors in offering cross-media services. Successful firms are offering a mix of self-promotion efforts that include developing educational events, entering awards competitions to gain recognition, producing promotional campaigns that demonstrate competency in the ability to deliver on all facets of a cross-media campaign, and documenting efforts in a case study that is accessible to clients and prospects.

6. **Educate customers:** Successful firms reported hosting ongoing educational events, both virtual and brick-and-mortar.

7. **Educate staff:** Educating and training staff beyond technical training was a common practice among top providers.

8. **Team selling seals the deal:** Successful providers of cross-media marketing services report that placing full responsibility for selling these services on the sales team has not worked. Instead, they are using a team selling approach that includes various project experts, e.g., marketing, data, and IT.

9. **Price = value to the buyer:** Pricing is a critical factor in offering cross-media marketing services. An analysis of pricing levels reported by respondents indicated that firms that have offered these services longer charged more. It is important that firms new to cross-media avoid giving away services to win print work and instead set pricing based on the value to buyer.

10. **Be patient:** Success doesn’t happen overnight. The firms that we interviewed were quick to point out that success was the result of a dedicated trial-and-error process.

Download the InfoTrends White Paper titled *From Print Service Provider to Cross-Media Marketing Services Provider: The Transition Takes Hold.*
Océ ColorStream 3500: Accelerating the Color Transition

SourceLink will be installing the first Océ ColorStream 3500 system in the U.S. in a few weeks. This high-speed, high-quality full-color inkjet printer produces 256 feet per minute (1,074 letter images per minute) and is designed to simplify the transition from monochrome to full-color or even five or six colors. The Océ Digidot® multi-level dot modulation produces fine details and smooth halftones with high quality at rated speed. It offers productivity and flexibility for high-speed color and monochrome production of transaction, TransPromo, direct mail, books, and manual applications with the reliability, print quality, and media range associated with Océ Digidot technology.

The Océ ColorStream 3500 system provides a modular offering in various single and twin configurations. The flexible system allows users to adapt the printing mode to match their pace in the transition to color. A full-color Océ ColorStream 3500 system can be set up as monochrome-only system when needed. As requirements change, the system can be upgraded to produce more sophisticated documents with variable personalization and full-color. The average volume is up to 33 million letter images per month on a twin system.

Innovations for the Transition to Communicating in Color

A number of features on the Océ ColorStream 3500 system enable a fast switch between long monochrome runs and full-color prints. The twin concept allows an easy entry into the world of inkjet printing by starting with a simplex monochrome version. The data center-infrastructure fit regarding size, weight, and power supply as well as a seamless integration into existing environments in terms of workflow and finishing, make it easy to replace older toner-based continuous feed systems with the new Océ ColorStream 3500 system. This helps accelerate the transition to color.

Low-Risk Innovation

The Océ ColorStream 3500 system builds on Océ’s continuous feed technologies, including Océ Digidot piezoelectric drop-on-demand technology, inkjet printheads that produce high-quality color at top speeds, SRA MP controller power, and the flexibility of Océ VarioStream® L-, H- or U-shape twin configurations. When combined with Océ service and upgradability, this is a low-risk strategy for making the market migration.

Configurations

The Océ ColorStream 3500 system can be configured in many different ways to match the user’s production requirements.

- Color: Start with monochrome printing and upgrade up to six colors with CMYK plus special inks such as MICR.
- Simplex / Duplex: Choose from five different configurations. The Océ ColorStream 3500 can be configured as single unit, inline Twin or L-, H- or U-Twin for simplex and duplex productivity.
- Quality: The Océ ColorStream 3500 system offers great print quality in Bi-Level mode. The optional Multi-Level offers an even higher print quality for halftones and images.

The Océ ColorStream 3500 System Reduces Environmental Impact

The Océ ColorStream 3500 system features a smaller carbon footprint, more economical use of ink, and less waste than its competitors, extending Océ’s environmental sustainability commitment to the high-volume color inkjet market.

Printing in speed ramps between full-stop up to high-speed production, as well as from production speed down to full-stop significantly reduces the amount of paper waste. Particularly in data centers, it is common to print the first few pages, adapt sensors, check for correct positioning, and then print the full job. With the Océ ColorStream 3500 system, this process can be handled with far less paper waste.

In a digital printing world where inkjet technology is getting a lot of attention, the Océ ColorStream 3500 system is worth evaluating.

Questions?

Call Us: 1-877-OCE-4WOW (1-877-623-4969) or Email Us: us.oceinfo@oce.com

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