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Wow is the power of COLOR. Turn everyday black and white transactional statements into powerful marketing tools to help your customers—and you—become more profitable.

Strategies for Success in 2011
Barb Pellow, InfoTrends
Lisa Cross, InfoTrends

Like many print service providers, you have weathered the recession. Although business has started to pick up, you know that you don’t want a recurrence of 2009 and 2010. As such, you are seeking the right strategies to transform your business.

In the InfoTrends White Paper: Road Map 2011 Business Development Strategies, Barb Pellow and Lisa Cross share strategies that print service providers should consider in 2011, including:

1. Make the Move into Cross-Media Marketing Services
2. Restructure Compensation Plans
3. Seize the Data and Help Clients Mine It
4. Personalization Isn’t Enough…It’s Relevance and Engagement
5. Pull the Trigger…Automated Marketing Emerges
6. Mobile and Print Are Better Together
7. Move to the “Cloud” to Accelerate the Delivery of New Value-Added Services
8. You Can’t Manage What You Don’t Measure
9. Retool and Reeducate Your Staff
10. Promote Thyself!
11. Lean is Still In!


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- View the webinar: Color Coordinated. Bringing color capabilities into your black & white business
- Download the InfoTrends White Paper: Road Map 2011 Business Development Strategies
Six Good Reasons to Invest In Digital Color Printing:
Barb Pellow, InfoTrends

Whether you are a large company or a small local printer, digital color printing is here to stay. The days of long runs across several shifts are over. There is a great need for smaller quantities to reduce inventory, obsolescence, and total cost. If you haven’t yet made an investment in digital color printing, here are six compelling reasons to get in the game:

- Offset is moving to digital: An InfoTrends survey of in-plants and commercial printers revealed 62% reported digital print volumes growing and four-color offset work declining.

- Black & white is moving to color: While digital black & white impressions continue to outnumber color impressions, they are not growing. The real growth area is digital color.

- Run lengths continue to get shorter: In an InfoTrends survey of 240 print buyers, respondents reported 50% of their color jobs had run lengths of less than 1,000 and 70% had run lengths of less than 5,000.

- Pressures on Marketing Executives are driving Customized Communications: Since the economic downturn, marketers are now seeking partners that can help them customize and target measurable programs. The starting point for participation in personalized marketing programs is making an investment in digital technology.

- Web-Enabled Services are Driving Digital Printing: Print buyers and print service providers are moving to the Internet, opening the door for new revenue for cross-media services.

- Digital Color and the Internet are Linked to Efficiency and Profit: Digital color and the Internet are directly linked to operational efficiency and improved profit margins.

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Getting Marketing Teams Engaged with Production Print
Francis McMahon, Vice President, Marketing

It’s no secret that marketing departments are savvy when it comes to direct mail. It’s a channel they’ve traditionally owned. They routinely work with vendors — whether it’s a direct mail house or commercial printshop — who provide access to sophisticated tools for conceiving, creating, composing, personalizing, mail-merging, printing and delivering mail pieces to a designated set of recipients and then measuring campaign effectiveness. For direct mail, they have plenty of tools for interacting with the process, from uploading artwork and providing lists to measuring response rates.

However, when it comes to bills, statements, policies and other production print output, many marketers find it more difficult to navigate the terrain (if they even consider stepping onto it in the first place.)
Why do I think marketers are less engaged with production print?

For starters, there’s the cultural dimension: IT and Operations versus Marketing. Historically production print has been the domain of the technology, operations or billing department, a silo neatly tucked away from creative and marketing types. As a result, many marketing execs simply didn’t consider transactional documents as vehicles for their messages. As awareness grows, marketing teams and even CMOs are starting to recognize the value of the transpromo opportunity. This is especially true as they face mounting pressure to deliver more accountability and better results at a lower cost. However, because they’re new to the game, they may be unsure of what executing a transpromo campaign entails, or how to engage with their traditional rivals in IT.

If you’re a print services provider, this is a golden opportunity.

Maybe you’re already providing direct mail or transactional print services for a particular client. You’ve got a new way to add more business and generate new revenue streams if you can help Marketing bridge the gap with IT. Start by helping marketers understand the potential of adding the statement into the marketing mix. Demonstrate the effectiveness of delivering targeted messages to recipients who are highly likely to spend time with the document. Point out the economies of embedding messages in documents that are delivered in an envelope where the stamp is already paid for. Keep in mind that you also have to win over their IT and operations folks who will be concerned about production cycles, data integrity and the ability to test. These guys want to know that a marketer is not going to be sticking their fingers in the code the day before (or even the week before) production.

Once you’ve convinced Marketing and IT that you have the skills, processes and tools to help them “do transpromo” in a quality controlled and measurable environment, help them foster dialogues with other departments and stakeholders. This might entail determining who maintains the library of messages and conditional business rules that define their use. Finally, provide access to tools that make it as easy to manage content for transaction documents as it is for direct mail—and make sure to measure results. In many cases, the very tools that enable marketers to interact with their suppliers for direct mail campaigns can be adapted for the transpromo world.

In a nutshell, educate them, make the appropriate tools available, facilitate the process and help marketers track results and ROI. It’s a consultative sell—but well worth the effort if it cements your relationship with existing customers or helps to bring you new ones.
Welcome to See the WOW! Boost quality, accelerate productivity and reduce costs. In today’s business environment, keeping revenue flowing, building your brand and strengthening customer relationships means delivering business-critical transactional documents that make a statement.

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