

Print Quality of Sheet Fed Offset & Digital Printing Technologies

Baral Anjan Kumar

Abstract

Digital printing has revolutionized the whole concept of traditional printing systems, particularly in the recent couple of years. This is equally true both in Indian as well as worldwide scenario. The essential gap between the sheet fed offset printing and digital printing is becoming narrow to narrower. Sheet Fed offset process of printing is the most widely form of technique in terms of quality and print lengths. The time is not too far, when it will be very difficult to draw fine line to separate these two printing systems from the point of print quality. It is the proper time to analyze and interpret the difference between the Sheet fed offset and digital print quality factors.

The broad objective of the above research work was to throw light on the above mentioned problem, by measuring the differences in print quality in both the sheet fed offset and digital printers. By using printing industry based questioner survey, the differences between the two printing systems are examined. Sheet fed offset process basically leads to number of printing defects due wide choice of materials and at the same time digital printing suffers from technical constraints, like image resolution, etc. Two print quality factors, like solid ink density and dot gain were taken into account in this research work. At the end it was concluded that there is a very fine line gap between the print quality of sheet fed offset and digital printing and coated paper is best suited to the sheet fed offset while digital printers produce better results on un-coated papers.