Field Trip to United Federation of Teachers







The field trip to the print shop at the United Federation of Teachers was impressive. Even though the machines were large and old in appearance, the kind of work out put is remarkable. Upon walking into the print office and mail room the space seemed like a maze with just enough space for one person to walk up and down round the equipment. Everything at the shop had its place. One of the machines that stood out to me over the others was the machine for cutting and trimming large quantities of paper. If I can remember correctly I believe the manager said it can cut precisely to 1/8 of an inch. This machine can shorten the amount of time in printing large quantities by having multiple copies that have been printed on one sheet trimmed down to actual copy size. For example in the photo, 2 copies were printed on an 8.5 x 11 sheet and then cut in half to multiply the quantity by two. Learning that you can print multiple copies on one page and then trimming down is something important that I will take not of when creating designs in the near future.

Another piece of equipment that stood out to me as important was the machine that folds the paper automatically. On the equipment itself you can select the kind of fold you want and with air it blows the sheet of paper onto the belt where it gets folded. If a company had to do this by hand it would take extensive work and time to fold over 500 sheets, also slowing down production time.

Amongst the other machineries, the machine that stuffs the envelope with the content to be mailed out was one of the most impressive to me. I never would have guessed that such equipment existed. I find that this machine is so helpful because you can stuff more than one envelope at a time and at fast rates.

I feel that the equipment I selected for my report work together effectively in making print productions time efficient in our fast paced environment. The three create a team that work fast with minimal error. Seeing all the different equipments in person allowed me to understand that there are specific printers for different needs and even though technology changes, a lot of the equipment can still produce copy efficiently.