

## 2 Overview: Some General Terms

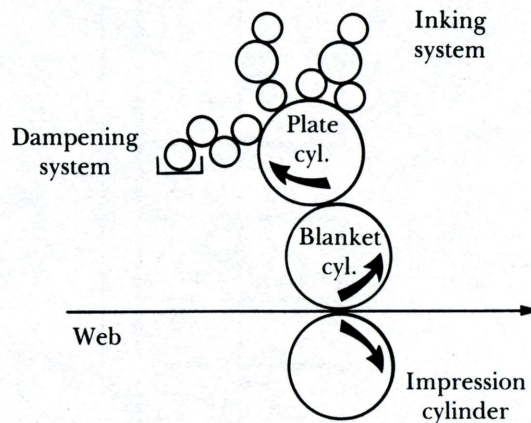
Over the years, a number of special terms have come into common use in web offset pressrooms, some borrowed from other kinds of printing, others used only in web offset work.

**Lithography** is the name of the printing process, specifically the printing process using ink and water to transfer an image from a level-surfaced plate onto another surface.

**Offset** means that the image carrier does not put the ink directly onto the paper or other substrate, but rather onto an intermediate surface first. Offset does not really mean lithography. It is common, however, to use the two words to indicate the same thing.

An in-line offset lithographic press unit that prints a single color on one side of a web

On an offset press, paper never comes in contact with the plate. Rather, the image is transferred from the plate to the paper by the blanket cylinder.



**Web offset** is so called because its presses print on continuous webs of paper. This is the basic difference between web and sheetfed presses. Two other significant differences between the two are the much smaller gaps on the plate and blanket cylinders of the web press, which means that a much more continuous flow of ink and water is experienced, and the lack of a hard impression cylinder on the blanket-to-blanket web offset press. This manual deals with (to use the most accurate expression) lithographic webfed offset presses.

To make matters a little more confusing (this won't be the last time), direct lithography is not only possible, but is done on web offset presses. It is accomplished by webbing a blanket-to-blanket unit so that the paper comes into contact with one plate and takes ink from it. In this case, the blanket cylinder of the couple acts as an impression cylinder.