

LibraryCrunch

Bringing You A "Library 2.0" Perspective, by Michael Casey

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Bookbinding, 19th Century Style

You can always depend on [Boing Boing](#) to point you to an odd story, and this one from [Boston.com](#) is most certainly no exception:

Brown University's library boasts an unusual anatomy book. Tanned and polished to a smooth golden brown, its cover looks and feels no different from any other fine leather.

But here's its secret: the book is bound in human skin.

A number of prestigious libraries -- including Harvard University's -- have such books in their collections. While the idea of making leather from human skin seems bizarre and cruel today, it was not uncommon in centuries past, said Laura Hartman, a rare book cataloger at the National Library of Medicine in Maryland and author of a paper on the subject... [\(continue\)](#)

Posted by Michael on January 9, 2006 06:26 AM | [Permalink](#)

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