

RFID in Libraries-Introduction to the Issues: An Emerging Trend

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Abstract

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is the technology that is slated to replace barcodes in library applications. It is a form of identification that is contact-less and does not require line of sight. The technology, though new to libraries, has been in use in other sectors for more than 2 decades. The RFID tags are placed in books and generally covered with a property sticker. Antennas of different sizes, based on application, are used to read the tags and manage the various library functions. The RFID Solution is a revolutionary application of automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) technology. In a library environment, RFID technology resembles a traditional barcode system in that it provides a means of assigning an ID to an item and reading that ID to perform circulation transactions or to take inventory.

1. New technology for efficiency in operations.

New technologies have always been of interest for libraries, both for the potential of increasing the quality of service and for improving efficiency of operations. At the present time, when libraries of all kinds (public, research, special) are facing economic hardships the overwhelming reason for considering new technologies is the potential for cost savings in the operations and the management of material flows.

2. Looking back at Bar Codes...

RFID is an identification technology; it does the same job as bar codes but offers potentially a lot more. It can therefore be fruitful to look back at bar code