E4LIBRARIES ACCREDITATION
FOR SYSTEMS SUPPLIERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

E4Libraries is an initiative of Book Industry Communication (BIC) aimed at promoting the increased use of beneficial technology in the library supply chain. Beneficial technology chiefly comprises full-cycle EDI or other forms of e-trading with stock suppliers, but often supplemented by implementation of RFID systems where appropriate and by efficient access to and use of bibliographic records, as well as less specific adoption of efficient working practices in the supply chain.

An accreditation scheme has been developed to enable library authorities, academic institution libraries, library consortia or individual special libraries as well as library stock suppliers to demonstrate their practical commitment to the objectives of e4libraries. This scheme is also open to systems suppliers (primarily of library management and RFID systems) and other service providers active in this marketplace.

Companies in this category wishing to apply for accreditation should submit a free-form application stating (in less than 1000 words) why they believe they should be accredited and appending a list of the services or systems they provide, and to whom. It will be necessary to demonstrate that:

- The systems and services are consistent with the objectives of the e4libraries project;
- The systems and services provided are of high quality and reliability;
- The systems and services are in successful and beneficial current use, citing users which have deployed these services and an analysis of the benefits gained;
- As an organisation a real contribution is being made to the successful outcomes of the e4libraries project;
- Support is given to the principles of open standards and interoperability with other systems.

Library management systems suppliers must also include the following information, for each of their currently available products:

- Their adherence to relevant existing standards;
- EDI capability as a standard part of the system; which messages are deployed; and evidence of implementations;
- Alternative e-trading mechanisms deployed (e.g. XML, web services);
- Successful integration with RFID systems;
- Successful integration with financial systems, citing examples of customers and the financial system in use;

- Participation in BIC and other library sector activity.

RFID systems suppliers must also include the following information:

- Their adherence to relevant existing standards, including support for ISO 28560-1 and 28560-2;
- Open integration with library management systems, citing examples;
- Systems capabilities, for example self-issue, self-returns, fines and payments and stock management;
- Their contribution to innovation in RFID technology and its promotion in libraries;
- Participation in BIC and other library sector activity.

Accreditation will be judged by an independent BIC panel and granted for the calendar year in which it is awarded.

Applicants may be interviewed about their applications and asked specific questions about any details which are unclear either before or immediately after the judging process.

The successful applicants will be entitled to display the e4libraries accreditation logo in their business where appropriate and in respect of the systems or services for which the company was accredited.