

# Changing times for RFID?

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Today I shall be mostly talking about...

What exactly **is** RFID?

Libraries uses – the story so far

What's changing.

How will change affect the library market?

# So what **is** RFID?

## Radio **F**requency **I**dentification

Can be active or passive, use different frequencies, capacities and structures



Used for:

Tolls, supply chain logistics, brand protection, drug integrity, smart cards, elephant tracking and of course...



# ...Library Management!



Smart shelves



Sorters



Dispensers



Security



Self Service



Shelf Checking



Accessioning



**THE  
STORY  
SO FAR**

# Different Markets/Different Solutions

## Australia/Asia

- Work stock harder = stock management
- Stock management = UHF solutions



## UK/US/Europe

- Reduce staff costs = self service
- Self service = HF solutions

# The UK Experience

Tracking items in the supply chain looks rather similar to circulating items in a library. An obvious candidate for RFID!

but...

Key data, used to drive all LMS operations, now migrated to tags from barcodes...



...and everyone did **that** differently...

# Parlez-vous RFID?

Retrieving tag data requires knowledge of:

- Data Structure
- Physical Location
- Field size
- Validation rules



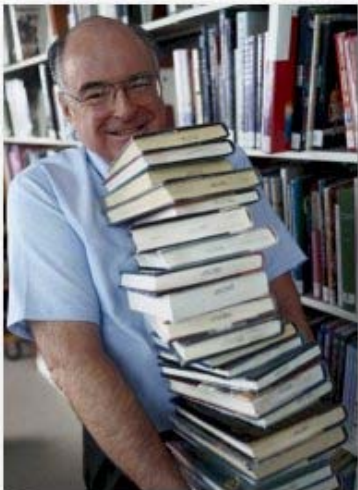
so finding the right data can present problems.



# So why is it so popular?

Self Service was simple.

- Tried and tested.
- Only the barcode number was needed to make it work.
- Every LMS/RFID system spoke the same language (SIP).



But libraries want more!

# Moving on

Taking inventory, tracing items, accessioning stock, EBSM, the wish list goes on growing...

Some solutions added data to tags, others worked with the LMS to create new “standards”

Some even re-invented the LMS...

# So, no lack of innovation then?

No but,

Lack of agreement on common standards

Limited engagement from LMS providers

and US concerns over privacy

Have all delayed progress.



*Introducing RFID - where we went wrong?*

# Finding Solutions

Self Service **is** a success story but,

- UK progress has been problematic, proprietary or fragmented.
- US still hampered by privacy concerns.
- Australia and Asia still looking to UHF.

We need to change something!



So What's Changing?

# A New Data Standard

ISO 28560 is the new common data standard for libraries.

- Part 1 Defines the data
- Part 2 Rules for variable length data
- Part 3 Rules for fixed length data (European Preference)

To be published in Q4 2009

# UK Libraries and ISO 28560

BIC/CILIP committee agreed to adopt ISO 28560-2 in January 2009.

...and agreed a national profile for its use in April.



# Book Trade Initiatives

Wiley beginning RFID trials using UHF.

Major retailers likely to dictate standards.



Amazon Warehouse

Libraries will have to consider implications.

# New Message Protocols

SIP long overdue for review

LMS/RFID dialogue in progress on extending functionality

BIC sponsoring protocol development

- New report in November 2009 re-examines SIP and NCIP and will consider other means of extending functionality

How will the changes affect the  
library market?

# Library Suppliers

Servicing companies will have fewer outputs, (but more inputs?).

RFID companies will sell hardware as well as solutions.

Single model may attract new players.

Tag prices could fall.

# Libraries

Easier resource sharing.

More creativity in designing learning spaces.

New functionality driving new services, better stock management and exploitation from closer LMS/RFID integration.

But privacy concerns will have to be addressed.

# Conclusions

## The Good News

RFID looks set to develop more rapidly than ever.

New initiatives underway should create greater choice, better interoperability.

## The (not very) Bad News

Be aware of the issues

Ask the right questions.

Get involved!

# Thank You!

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