



RFID Radio Frequency Identification

Tagging books for implementation of the new RFID system is moving along well.

"It is going very well," said Anne Fischer, Director of Information Technology. "As of [Dec. 7], we completed our second library. We want everyone to know that we could not be this far along without library staff help.

"We started at Belle Isle on Dec. 10 and even with the holidays, hope to have them finished by the end of December. So far, what has been accomplished has far exceeded our expectations."

One of the libraries at which the tagging has been already completed is Midwest City. Manager **Deb Willis** can't say enough about the RFID process.

"The project is a huge undertaking," Deb said. "It basically involves touching every item in the library's holdings. The payoff comes when you have the opportunity to check-in or check-out a large quantity of items that have been tagged: faster than you can snap your fingers the computer reads the tags and completes the function.

"I had a customer bring up 15 books for checkout. Before the tags, we had to handle each book, scanning the barcode and placing it aside. With the tags I placed five items at a time on the scanning pad, the computer read

them and checked them out, and her transaction was completed in the blink of an eye. The customer was surprised at how quickly her transaction was completed!"

Deb also reported that RFID has already proven itself to be a tremendous timesaver in other ways as well. Take inventory control, for instance.

"I was able to use the 'scanning wand,'" she said, "and in 45 minutes had uncovered and cleaned up several miscoding issues in the library's fiction collection. Prior to the RFID tagging, this type of project would have taken several days and involved several staff members."

"You might pass on to staff that if they need to weed areas of their collection, it's really nice if they can do it before we come," Anne added. "That way, we don't tag books that are going to be withdrawn shortly and waste a tag." (See the article on page 3 in this issue about weeding.)

"I think we don't know yet of all the ways we will be able to use the RFID system," Deb concluded, "but staff are very excited about what we have seen so far."

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