

From the Director's Desk:

Staff and Volunteers have been working tirelessly in the past few months to complete the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) project to improve our service to the community. As of April 4, the tedious work of preparing all items was accomplished and we began checking things out using RFID technology. So far, we have experienced a few challenges in having everything running smoothly but the staff has developed effective solutions and is moving forward.

I am very grateful to all who did this work, diligently, and efficiently for so many months. There were staff members who spent hours every day, standing in the stack areas, encoding items, linking records to our cataloging/checkout system or "pocket-picking." Others, while meeting their regular responsibilities, also carted books to their respective locations and picked out the old targets and pockets in order to have the new RFID targets work. All staff from Circulation, Children & YA, Reference, Tech Services, Electronic Resources, Administration, and even our maintenance person, helped get the project done.

Volunteers who came in every Monday and Friday morning, pulled the lion's share of the pockets and targets out of the collection. My thanks especially, to Glennys Button and Judy Dunn who coordinated the work of this group. In addition, we had help from Boy Scouts, Rotary Club members, Youth in Government Club (HHS), Vista School students, and individuals who came in on their own to work on the project. We could not have finished on time without their dedicated assistance.

The RFID project has benefitted the community in several ways.

1. We came together as a group to accomplish a shared goal while building friendships and a sense of community.
2. The new system will provide borrowers with the option to use self-checkout services.
3. Staff time spent checking out materials has been minimized, leaving them to serve our clientele in other ways.
4. Item security at the front gates will be consistent and accurate.
5. Item identification and inventory operations will now be possible using a time efficient and accurate method.

I thank all who participated and made this project such a success. Kudos to you all!

Barbara S. Ellis

Director of Library Services

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