

Press Release

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Winner of RFID Innovation Award announced

The University of Lancashire scoops prestigious prize for its time saving systems



3M, the diversified technology company, is delighted that the University of Lancashire (UCLan) is the winner of the BIC/CILIP RFID Innovation Award 2011. The winning entry demonstrates how the 3M FX Sorter System is being utilised to streamline the acquisitions process thereby saving time and allowing new books to be placed onto the shelves within two hours of them arriving at the library. The university was presented with its award at the annual CILIP RFID in Libraries Conference held on 8 November 2011.

When new books arrive at the university with a prefixed RFID tag, they are fed into a 9-bin 3M FX Sorter System which automatically reads the tag and triggers the library management system to update the catalogue to show that the new items are available. The items are then sorted into the appropriate bins ready to be placed onto the library's shelves. This new process means that the library management system can be updated quickly and with minimum staff intervention.

Jeremy Andrew, Head of Library and Training Systems at UCLan comments: *"We are very pleased to have won this prestigious award in recognition of our library systems. We developed the concept of using the 3M sorter, with the Capita software, to enable the sorter to be used as part of our acquisitions process. The results have delivered beyond our expectations and increased our return on investment from the sorter."*

He continues: *"When we initially discussed the concept of using the sorter for acquisitions with our team it was greeted with apprehension as many individuals were worried that*

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this new approach wouldn't work, the fear of the unknown prevailed! However, as time went on, our team became enthused about the project and its prospects, so much

so, that now there is a real appetite for the library to become further involved in RFID, allowing new innovative solutions to be implemented. Without doubt, the 3M FX Sorter System has significantly reduced staff time and effort in receipting new stock whilst continuing to sort returned items. Importantly it has enhanced our students' experience of the library service."

Chris Millican, Marketing Manager at 3M Track and Trace Division, comments: *"We are delighted for the team at UCLan on their win. The use of a sorter for processing acquisitions is an excellent example of how RFID technology can be utilised for improving stock management. We are proud that the 3M sorter has enabled this achievement and we shall continue to work in partnership with UCLan, and other libraries nationwide, to support them in improving productivity and efficiency"*

The 3M FX Sorter System utilises quiet sweep technology that gently sorts the items (books, CDs, DVDs) into the allocated bins, reducing potential damage to the items. The highly flexible technology allows the sorter systems to work with RFID tags and barcodes, as well as electro-magnetic (EM) systems. From identifying holds and reserves, using 'real-time check-in' to maximising the availability of stock, an automated sorter system is a valuable asset to any library.



3M sorters are modular based systems designed specifically for libraries and provide highly flexible configurations to fit into virtually any space. The 3M FX Sorter System can support up to 15 bins, perfect for larger libraries. Libraries can easily configure the sort criteria to meet their own needs. It provides a cost effective solution to help decrease the time an item takes to get back on the shelf, while increasing staff productivity and enhancing customer satisfaction overall.

3M is a leading supplier of library systems. It offers a complete range of library solutions utilising both EM and RFID technology, including self-service kiosks, security systems, sortation, stock management devices and system management software. 3M provide ongoing support through excellent service, training and project management delivered by an experienced and locally based service team.

For further information about 3M's library systems visit www.3M.co.uk/library or email: library-uk@mmm.com

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