3M Intelligent Return and Sorter System SL
Helps Libraries Enhance Productivity

Automated sorting helps speed return of materials to shelves

ST. PAUL, Minn., October 29, 2009 – 3M Library Systems recently installed its Intelligent Return and Sorter System SL in three new locations, helping a growing number of libraries save resources by automating the check-in and sorting process. The system has been installed at the Park Grove Branch Library in Cottage Grove, Minn., the Oglethorpe Mall Branch Library in Savannah, Ga., and the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin, Ill. A fourth installation is planned for the St. Joseph Public Library in South Bend, Ind. At a time when many libraries are facing increased circulation during budgetary challenges, the Intelligent Return and Sorter System SL helps them put their resources to the most efficient use.

"The system has exceeded our expectations," said Karen Reichardt, Assistant Director of Technical Services at the Oglethorpe Mall Branch Library. With check-in and sorting largely automated, "we are able to put our staff to work doing things like collection development," she said.

Designed specifically for libraries, the Intelligent Return and Sorter System SL is an affordable, efficient automated material handling system. The easy-to-use interface allows library patrons to instantly check their items in, after which the system sorts the items into bins, helping speed their return to the stacks. The system can be interior wall or exterior wall mounted, walk-up or drive-up, and its intuitive user interface makes it easy for customers and staff to use. The Intelligent Return and Sorter System SL helps decrease the time it takes for an item to get back to the shelf, helping to increase staff productivity while enhancing customer satisfaction.

"The staff has been very enthusiastic," said Joyce Schneider, Deputy Director of the Washington County Library system in Minnesota, which includes the Park Grove branch. "The sorter helps them with their work and handles a large volume of check-in." Like many library

systems, the Washington County Library allows customers to return materials at any branch, which is another reason that the sorter has been helpful at Park Grove, Schneider said.

For libraries with limited space, the system can be used for return only or can accommodate up to three bins with a sort matrix configured to best meet the location's needs. The sweep technology utilized by the sorter for directing items into the bins helps ensure items are sorted properly while reducing damage. Additionally, the system is compatible with both EM (electromagnetic) and RFID security systems, and can identify items by RFID and/or bar codes.

For more information about the 3M Library Systems solutions, visit:

http://www.3M.com/library/us/pr

About 3M
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About 3M Library Systems

3M Library Systems offers the latest in RFID, self-service, automated materials handling, security and PC management solutions that help create a more human library and a more fulfilling and enjoyable patron experience. 3M also collaborates with libraries to support their technological advancement and ensure their success through numerous industry sponsorships and programs. Visit http://www.3M.com/library/us/pr

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