

3M Library Systems Announces Space-Saving Automated Materials Handling System

Affordable three-bin system features small footprint, options for induction

DENVER—January 23, 2009 (Booth #1032)—3M Library Systems today announced the 3M Intelligent Return and Sorter System, a space-saving automated materials handling system for libraries. A fully functional, three-bin version of the system has a small footprint that provides new options for proposed and existing libraries. A lean configuration can fit within most conventional book-drop rooms.

The announcement was made here at the American Library Association 2009 Midwinter Meeting, held at the Colorado Convention Center.

“Our research found that most librarians want the dramatic productivity and customer service gains that can be achieved with automated materials handling,” said Rory Yanchek, 3M Track and Trace Solutions general manager. “More than 60 percent of libraries didn’t have the space needed to accommodate available systems.”

The 3M Intelligent Return and Sorter System allows libraries to install a fully featured automation system within their existing space at a reasonable cost. The 3M System can also give librarians and their architects more flexibility in designing and constructing new buildings. According to Joan Detloff, marketing manager for 3M Library Systems. “The 3M Intelligent Return and Sorter System is a true automated materials handling system, with the speed, accuracy and reliability that libraries expect.”

The system can process both radio frequency identification (RFID) tags and barcodes, relaying data directly to the integrated library system. It can also reactivate electromagnetic security strips, such as Tattle-Tape Security Strips from 3M.

The system also comes with an optional printer for receipts and two choices for the user interface on the induction unit. The Classic version provides a simple, intuitive interface with buttons to start the induction and, if desired, print a receipt. The Plus version comes with an LCD touch screen that can provide guidance in several languages. The induction unit comes in three styles: drive-up, exterior walk-up and interior walk-up.

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The RFID system comes with Tag Data Manager software which provides a path forward to NISO recommended tag data formats. These new standards will enhance the interoperability and flexibility of library RFID systems and help make the technology even more valuable. “Like all our products,” Detloff said, “the 3M Intelligent Return and Sorter System comes with 3M’s nationwide service, which includes rapid response and preventive maintenance.”

All models are certified by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and are CE marked. Safety testing reports follow the international CB scheme.

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 help ensure their success through numerous industry sponsorships and programs. For more information about 3M Library Systems, visit <http://www.3M.com/library>.

About 3M

A recognized leader in research and development, 3M produces thousands of innovative products for dozens of diverse markets. 3M’s core strength is applying its more than 40 distinct technology platforms – often in combination – to a wide array of customer needs. With \$24 billion in sales, 3M employs 79,000 people worldwide and has operations in more than 60 countries.

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- 30 -

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