

## **3M Library Systems Releases Disc Media Unlocker**

*Integrated unlocker gives library patrons the convenience of self-service while helping to protect popular disc media collections from loss*

DENVER—January 23, 2009 (Booth #1032) — 3M Library Systems today introduced the 3M Integrated Disc Media Unlocker here at the American Library Association 2009 Midwinter Meeting held at the Colorado Convention Center. This integrated security and self-service device allows library patrons to check out CDs, DVDs, games and educational software without staff assistance. The unlocker, which is compatible with the SelfCheck System from 3M, helps libraries protect their valuable disc media while patrons continue to have full access to the collection.

With the 3M Integrated Disc Media Unlocker, checkout is fast and simple. The patron places the item on the workstation, where the SelfCheck System checks it out using either radio frequency (RFID) or barcode identification. The SelfCheck System display screen then directs the patron to insert the case in the unlocker. The unlocker confirms that the inserted item matches the checked-out item, the case is automatically unlocked and the workstation generates a receipt.

“The 3M Integrated Disc Media Unlocker combines the convenience and productivity benefits of self-service with enhanced protection for a library’s disc media, which are typically the most expensive and most heavily circulated items in a collection,” said Skip Driessen, business development manager for 3M Library Systems.

This media often constitutes about 15 percent of a library’s total items, but can account for as much as 50 percent of total circulation. These items are frequently targeted by thieves.

3M’s Integrated Disc Media Unlocker is different from other commercialized systems. Competing disc media security systems usually don’t match the item checked out to the item in the unlocker. This allows thieves to check out one item, unlock and remove another, and then return the still-locked first item. The 3M Integrated Disc Media Unlocker works with industry standard-sized cases, so that security doesn’t impact shelf space. Driessen added, “3M’s system lets patrons browse the disc media collection with the same freedom they enjoy in the rest of the library.”

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The 3M Integrated Disc Media Unlocker can be integrated into all currently supported SelfCheck Systems from 3M, including those at libraries that haven't converted to RFID technology.

"Libraries that are using barcode systems will need to program and apply RFID tags to the cases, but otherwise the systems are perfectly compatible," explained Driessen.

The unlocker can be an easy first step for libraries that want to experiment with RFID circulation and security systems.

Returns are also fast and simple. In RFID-equipped libraries, an interrogator reads the returned item's tag and automatically changes the item's status in the ILS (integrated library system). The staff opens the case to validate the contents and then reseals the case by swiping it through the 3M Disc Media Manual Locker. In barcode-equipped libraries, the staff will check the item in using the barcode, validate the case contents and manually lock it.

The durable, tamperproof case has all-internal parts, so there's nothing to snap on or off—making it fast and easy to check items in and get them back on the shelves.

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. 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. For more information, visit [www.3M.com](http://www.3M.com).

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