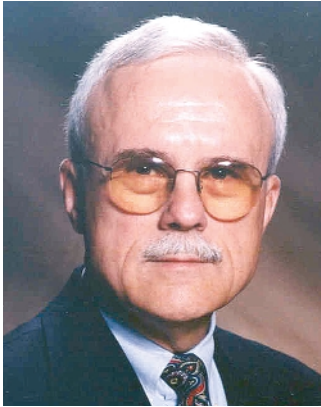


# Case In Point

## Casting the Mold for the Library of the Future



***“We have the most accurate library in the world.”***

—Dr. Kenneth Marks,  
Dean of University Libraries  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

### **The Library**

As its founders expected, the Lied Library at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), is playing a big role in UNLV's growing reputation as a top-tier university. Lied is a five-story, 302,000-square-foot research library that maintains a collection of nearly one million items and can accommodate 3,666 people at capacity. Opening in January 2001 after five years of planning and two of construction, this model library of the future is a showcase of architecture, services, programs, and some of the most advanced library technologies in the United States, perhaps the world. In fact, says Dr. Kenneth Marks, Dean of University Libraries at UNLV, “We have the most accurate library in the world.”

### **The Need**

Built with \$55.3 million in combined funds from the Nevada State Legislature and the Lied Foundation Trust, the library is the most expensive public works project in Nevada's history. With such an investment, expectations were very high from the beginning for service, performance and technologies.

### **The Solution**

From the beginning, UNLV knew 3M would be its partner in fulfilling the library's service promise to

the campus and community. The existing UNLV library system was already fully equipped with 3M™ Detection Systems and 3M™ Tattle-Tape™ security technology. A happy customer who recognized 3M's 30 years of library-product innovation, Dr. Marks and his staff had already begun testing 3M RFID components several months prior to opening. 3M passed the test. “[The] 3M [System] was appealing to us in that it integrates our automated systems with our Tattle-Tape security. It's the only system available today that can do that,” says Marks.

To begin the conversion to RFID, Lied Library leased three 3M™ Conversion Stations and converted 580,000 bar codes to radio frequency identification (RFID) tags in less than seven months. In all, Lied purchased three 3M™ SelfCheck™ Systems to promote patron self-checkout, seven new 3M™ Staff Workstations, four 3M™ Digital Library Assistants (DLAs) accompanied by a digital data manager, and two 3M™ Detection Systems.

### **The Future**

Since full 2001 implementation of 3M RFID, the Lied Library has purchased an additional workstation and two new DLAs, a library favorite. According to Marks, “The DLA allows you to do things much faster than before the technology was available... assuming you'd be able to do them at all.” The library used the DLA to scan over 600,000 items and found 556 items thought to be missing. The estimated savings: over \$40,000... not to mention the frustration saved because staff and customers were able to find what they needed, where and when they needed it.

3M continues to help Lied achieve its goals, such as partnering to expand self-checkout use through training and consulting. “We chose to work with 3M,” says Marks, “because they share our commitment to enhancing patron service and staff efficiency with the latest technology.”

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