RFID implementation in libraries

Introduction

There is never a 'best time' to adopt any new technology – today's facilities are always better, cheaper and faster than yesterday's, but whatever is bought today is almost guaranteed to have been superseded by something even more ideal by the time tomorrow comes. In the end, we just have to proceed when the time seems right for us – when what is available will adequately fulfill the requirements for the short to medium term.

Radio frequency identification (RFID) is currently gathering a lot of interest within many industrial sectors and particularly in the case of a library enabling some of the more simplistic tasks such as checkout and check-in. Libraries have implemented RFID applications in collection management, circulation services, and in inventory operations to employ the functions of identification, rapid response to increase efficiency and accuracy. However, selecting the right RFID technology solution involves myriad options in terms of frequencies, tag configurations, types of antennas and readers, and systems – each with a potentially significant effect on the capabilities of the overall system. For example, systems using higher frequencies to communicate between the tag and the antenna provide more reads per second but