



Berkeley Public Library
2090 Kittredge Street
Berkeley, CA 94704
510-981-6100

Best Practices for RFID Technology

- Library information on the tag should be limited to the barcode.
- Patrons should not have the ability to search the catalog by barcode.
- Do not utilize wireless connections to communicate between security gates, self-checks or other RFID-reading devices and the ILS database unless more security is incorporated in these communications. (Consider VPN for example)
- The implementation of an RFID system only reinforces the current library duty to make sure their ILS database is as secure from unauthorized entry as possible.
- Do not implement smart-card RFID patron library cards.
- Inform patrons that your library utilizes RFID technology.



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Influencing Future Developments in RFID Technology

- Encourage vendors to develop a protocol for formatting and placement of data on the tag (standardization beyond ISO 18000-3) while concurrently developing security to ensure privacy (such as encryption). Work with those knowledgeable about emerging technology to provide input and oversight.
- Encourage vendors to use or develop systems where the reader queries the tag first, rather than having the tag broadcast first, or require authentication before data is transmitted.
- Encourage vendors to develop password technology to help ensure that a reader purchased by an unauthorized source is not able to read any tag.
- To protect the library's investment in the technology, chips should be write-able, so that upgrades can be incorporated. Concurrently, security measures should be developed so that there is protection against unauthorized or accidental writing to the tag.
- Monitor the book industry for developments in the pre-processing of books with RFID tags. Book companies could allow much more data on the tag, or could reference the ISBN number on the tag, leading to easier detection of the book title