3M Library Systems

40 YEARS of
GREAT LIBRARY
INNOVATIONS

Libraries are as unique as the organisations and people who create them. 3M Library Systems has made it a point to understand every customer in setting up libraries to answer their every need.

From tracking of books to keeping queues short, to controlling running costs and keeping library patrons happy; no matter how big and precious the book collections are, 3M is committed to our customers' success.

Our solutions draw upon 40 years of precious insights and inspirations from customers. It is reflected in ingenious solutions like 3M Tattle-Tape Strips, 3M SelfCheck Systems, RFID Tagging and Barcodes, Return and Sorting Systems, Digital Library Assistants, and so much more.

It has been a journey in which we have discovered the common values we enjoy: quality, reliability, ingenuity, practicality, usability, and the willingness to go that extra mile. These elements and collaboration bring a truly human dimension to libraries.

To our customers and library lovers everywhere, thank you for 40 wonderful years. Keep talking to us at 3M Library Systems!

3M

The Automated Library

We have been using 3M systems since 1982.

The Library sought a solution to provide reliable after sales service and local support. Our Library tries to automate as much as possible to reduce manpower utilization.

We implemented the 3M security system (security strips, detection gates, loan counter book checks) in 1982. This was followed by the integration of our first Library Management System (ATLAS) by DRA Research Associates in 1988. The self-check system was introduced in 1994, the first in South East Asia. In 2006, we took up the trial offer on the new V-series self check machine and bought the first unit for the new Art, Design and Media Library. We also upgraded all the self-checks to the V-series in 2007. RFID was implemented in 2009 for books and CDs/DVDs/VCDs.

Before the implementation of RFID, books returned at the book return chutes could not be updated in real time, loan transactions took a longer time as every book had to be opened up to scan the barcode and problematic barcodes had to be keyed in manually.

3M self-check machines eliminated the need for staff to check out books for users, reduced queues at the service counters and enabled us to re-deploy our staff for other tasks. With RFID, loan transactions at the self checks and service counters are done more quickly as users/library staff need not open the books to scan barcodes. 3M RFID book return chutes also cancel loans in real time and update user transactions automatically, even when the libraries are closed.

Over the next few years, we envision self-service dispensing machines for popular books, books reserved by users and media that can be located outside the library to enable users to borrow them 24/7. We can see RFID technology being integrated with our Library catalogue to get a graphical location of books on shelves using mobile devices. RFID will also allow books to be returned to remote bins around the campus. New technology will enable library seats and computers to be reserved using mobile devices, and perhaps media-on-demand mobile devices will offer selections of e-books, newspapers, magazines, Video On Demand, etc.

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