

Puyallup Public Library

Press Release

For Immediate Release



PUYALLUP PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Est. 1913

324 South Meridian
Puyallup, WA 98371
www.puyalluplibrary.org

For more information contact:
Tim Wadham, Library Director

twadham@ci.puyallup.wa.us
253-841-5454

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Puyallup Public Library Implements RFID Technology; Benefits Include Convenience, Speed and Service

New self-checkouts, automated processes free staff to help patrons and provide faster turnaround of materials.

Puyallup, WA; April 10, 2014: Through the implementation of radio frequency identification (RFID)-enabled library automation technologies, the Puyallup Public Library is preparing to enter a new era of service. For library visitors, the change means fast, private self-checkout, less time spent waiting in line, more personal attention from library staff, and faster recirculation of returned items.

New systems will include self-service checkout, a loss-prevention security system, RFID programming staff stations, handheld inventory devices and automated check-in and sorting, enabling the Puyallup Public Library to maintain its current high level of service while growing in size and circulation. Library patrons will be empowered to independently check out materials using the ultra-powerful liber8™ self-checkout software and check items in using the simple smartreturn™ manager software. The Library will also be installing RFID security gates at the entrance to help reduce theft and loss, which is a significant cost to the library each year.

Radio Frequency Identification is automatic identification technology that relies on Radio Frequency (RF) waves to read encoded digital data on tags, including the item's identifying number and a security component. The item title and a patron's personal information are not programmed on the tag. Unlike barcode technology, RFID does not have to "see" the tag to read it. Multiple items can be read simultaneously from any angle, just by being placed close to an RFID antenna. Because the technology offers a long-term increase in efficiency, the initial investment in RFID is recouped in a few short years and libraries reap the financial benefits for years to come. Like retail outlets, airports, and other transactional environments, libraries worldwide are introducing a self-service option for the many customers who do not require special attention, freeing up staff to spend time with customers who require more assistance.

Though most patrons may not notice, the library will achieve the greatest increase in efficiency through the installation of sorting systems placed behind book returns. These “automated materials handling” machines move a returned item on a conveyor belt to a pre-assigned bin where it is deposited for re-shelving. The sorter reads an item’s RFID tag, checks it in automatically and prints a ticket if the book or disk is on hold for someone else before delivering it to its proper bin. The time savings provided by these sorting systems is enormous, as a task that once took a day or more is reduced to a period of minutes.

The Puyallup Public Library selected Bibliotheca as its vendor for the RFID initiative. As the world's leading provider of technology solutions to the library market, Bibliotheca has deployed well over 20,000 RFID solutions to over 4,000 unique library sites around the globe.

Installation is set to begin on April 28th; and the library will hold a grand opening, ribbon-cutting celebration in mid-May, 2014. Library staff will be available to assist our patrons with self-checkout and answer any questions they may have. For more information on the event at the Puyallup Public Library, contact Tim Wadham at (253) 841-5454, or go to the website at www.puyalluplibrary.org. For additional information about our Bibliotheca RFID solution you may visit www.bibliotheca.com

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