

You Ask We Answer

Information provided by the Newport News Public Library System

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You Ask:

What is RFID and how will it affect library services?

We Answer:

The Library System is beginning the process of switching to RFID, or Radio Frequency Identification, to identify and track the use of materials. A new variation of systems libraries have always used, RFID uses a wireless, non-contact radio system to transfer data from a tag attached to an object for automatic identification and tracking.

Libraries have begun tagging materials and look forward to having RFID fully implemented, including building modifications for new equipment, by the summer of 2014.

At that time, patrons will be able to use self-service stations to check out books and audiovisual items. Currently, patrons cannot check out CDs or DVDs at the self-service stations. The use of RFID also will increase accuracy at both the checkout and check-in processes and will save many hours of staff time. Staff will then have time to provide more personal service to Library patrons.

Self-service checkout, higher accuracy in tracking materials and staff time savings ultimately will enhance your Library experience.

> Information provided by Deborah Wright, supervising librarian at Grissom Library. For more information, please contact the reference desk of any Newport News Library.



