sybis

RFID for Libraries

Standards Australia Working Group IT-019 -01-02

Wednesday November 30th 2005, 1300 - 1600

RMIT - City Campus - 360 Swanston Street, Building 8, Level 5

Attendees:
Alan Butters, Sybis (Chair)
Leona Jennings, GCCC
Peter Dart, Pearson Australia Group
Brian Dunne, 3M Australia
Jan Wild, DA Library Technologies
Craig Anderson, RMIT
Christine Mackenzie YPRL

Apologies:
Lynn Regan, BHSC
Janifer Gatenby, OCLC PICA

1. Welcome and meeting objectives

AB welcomed the members to the second meeting of the IT-019-01-02 working group. CA apologised for the last minute venue change due to building renovations. AB explained that the principal meeting objective was to commence development of the framework document that had been previously circulated with the aim of capturing the benefits of and requirements for RFID systems designed for Australian libraries.

2. Framework document - part 1, Functionality

A wide ranging discussion ensued as members articulated the benefits afforded to libraries by RFID systems from several perspectives with PD providing the publisher's / retailer's viewpoint. A summary of the specific comments during this discussion is presented in the following table. Comments are listed in the order they were made at the meeting.

Proposed	WG member's comment
LJ	Return on investment – productivity benefits
LJ	Database accuracy in a climate of increasing accountability
JW	OH & S benefits through reduced materials handling
LJ	Improved asset management
LJ	Streamlined staff processes
LJ	Improved service to borrowers – better self serve loans & returns
LJ	Better borrower privacy through improved self serve loan and returns
CM	Hand held devices may have increased value in the future
LJ	Searching for holds and missing books more important than shelf order
LJ	Ability to collect statistics on in-house reading
LJ	Ability to move away from health concerns with EM security
CM	Removal of EM security is a benefit to staff not a selling point to council
LJ	Removes false alarm situations that occur with EM security
CM	RFID better for A/V as it does not damage magnetically sensitive items
LJ & CM	Public libraries favour one-tag instead of two-tag scenario
CA	Academic libraries my favour two-tag scenario due to increased risk
PD	Fewer tags in the books eases the work on publishers who insert them
LJ	Extra tag data and functionality must not come at the cost of productivity
BD	There are cost implications if a larger tag memory is required
JW	Need to keep an eye on the future and provide for upgrade paths
PD	RFID used to determine if returns are genuine
PD	Supply chain efficiency – RFID offers many benefits in this area
PD	Theft is a key driver for retail – may need multiple tags to be safe
PD	Counterfeiting books – RFID could help with authentication

AB to incorporate these comments into the framework document and the working group will attempt to place them in a priority ranking.

3. Presentation - Data Security (Borrower Privacy)
AB delivered a Powerpoint presentation on security issues aimed at assisting the working group to understand the issues of concern within the library community as

well as the limitations with current standards and technology. Some of the main points of the presentation were:

- ISO 15693 & ISO 18000-3 Mode 1 are not standards that support a secure RFID platform. These standards do not prohibit:
    - Digital vandalism
    - Tracking
    - Hotlisting
    - Profiling
- 13.56 Mhz tags as used in libraries cannot be read from great distances. 3.5 metres is the upper limit due to the laws of physics
- Eavesdropping on tag transmissions is problematic at distances greater than the normal operating range
- Vendors should be encouraged to develop ISO 18000-3 Mode 2 solutions where security is considered a priority

4. Framework document - part 2, Data Security (Borrower privacy)
Following the presentation, discussion returned to the framework document where the issue of an appropriate data model was considered in the privacy context. A summary of the specific comments during this discussion is presented in the following table. Comments are listed in the order they were made at the meeting.

Proposed	WG member's comment
PD	The ubiquitous nature of security concerns is the issue - the Danish proposal does not adequately address this.
LJ	Communications issue - the privacy concerns are not addressed by the Danish proposal. Acknowledgment at least has to be given to this topic
LJ	A statement of facts is needed - what can and cannot be done
CM	ALIA should articulate a position on privacy issues for Australian libraries
LJ	Australian libraries do take privacy seriously but they are also pragmatic
PD	Having a basic RFID patron card is very risky under current standards
JW	Concerned that the pendulum is swinging too far - unreasonable fear level?
CA	Data model should allow for RFID borrower cards - libraries will decide
PD	Make use of the library data more - the tag does not need to make everything explicit when the information already exists on the library's database

CM agreed to follow up with ALIA re the privacy statement. A general discussion of the data model in the Danish proposal resulted in the following principles:

- The three-segment approach of the Danish group has definite benefits

- A large Mandatory section may be problematic in security sensitive environments
- The primary item ID (typically the library barcode number) must appear in the Mandatory section of the model

This discussion is to be continued at the next meeting.

5. Other business.
JW indicated that New Zealand libraries had expressed a wish to be involved with the working group in some capacity. JW agreed to contact Geoff Chamberlain from North Shore Libraries (representing NZ public libraries) to discuss this possibility further. PD agreed to follow up with IT-019 to determine what, if any, involvement with academic libraries existed within that committee.

6. Next meeting
The previously made decision to meet in Sydney for meeting #3 was discussed. Most members were able to manage limited travel interstate. CM told the group that she was having difficulty traveling interstate at the moment. AB to report back to the group after further private discussions with members.

7. Meeting closed
The meeting concluded at 1600