

# INTRODUCTION

Research for this issue of *Library Technology Reports* was begun in January 2003 by contacting vendors for information and literature, interviewing librarians, visiting libraries, searching literature, and viewing demonstrations of all the systems at the 2003 Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association (ALA) and again at its 2003 Annual Conference.

Vendors that offer radio frequency identification (RFID) systems but have not targeted the library market are not included in this report, nor are vendors that only sell products that interface with RFID systems.

This report provides the following information:

- Chapter 1 provides an overview of RFID for libraries.
- Chapter 2 discusses RFID technology.
- Chapters 3 to 8 describe each of six vendor's available RFID systems.
- Chapter 9 summarizes interviews with library administrators.
- Chapter 10 provides a set of sample requirements that might be included in an RFP.
- Chapter 11 lists sources for additional information.
- A glossary ends the report.

## Conventions of this report

Vendors use many terms interchangeably. These terms include *charge* or *check out*, *discharge* or *check in*, *exit sensor* or *gate*, *sensitized* or *on*, and *desensitized* or *off*. For the most part, the first term in these pairs is used.