

SORTERS & POST-ITS & TOTES, OH MY

Could a delivery sorter benefit all member libraries?

TWO PERSPECTIVES

Wendy Rawson-Library Director at FCH

- FCH has only existed as a sorter library
- Opened with an ITG sorter in 2011
- Installed a Lyngsoe/Envisionware sorter in late 2023

Margie Navarre-Saaf- Borrower Services Manager at MPL

- MPL does not have sorters
- MPL is not planning to add sorters
- Volume for 9 locations is a big part of delivery's workload
- Efficiency and speed could improve with a system sorter

FCH experience

Expectations of RFID & AMH (automated materials handling)

What are sorters good at?

- Efficient- saves a lot of staff time
- Accurate
- Less repetitive motion injuries
- Patrons like seeing each item shown as checked in on the screen
- Sorting the items that belong to FCH

What are the limitations?

- Not a magic wand
- 7/8 bins can only sort so many ways
- Sometimes it eats things



MPL Information Gathering

- Conversations about functionality with Envisionware, Lyngsoe and SCLS.
- Toured of the Cincinnati Public Library distribution center during PLA.
- A similar visit is planned for the San Diego Public Library during ALA.

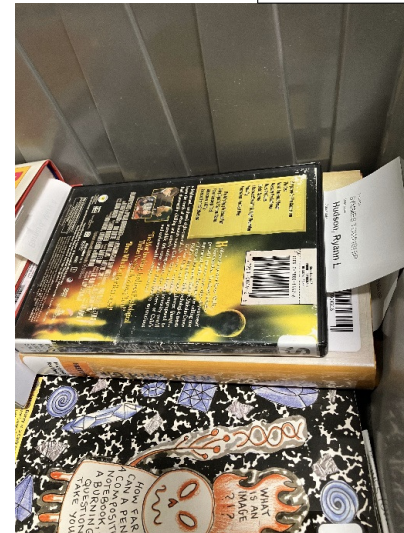
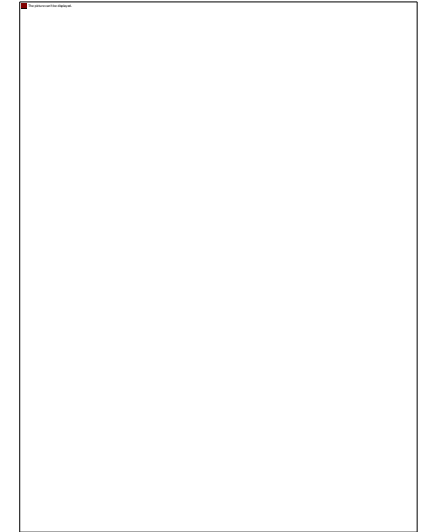
Potential benefits for member libraries:

- No more post it notes
- Manifests
- Staff time savings by not checking in every delivery item
- Customized sorting

No more post-it notes!!

(Pause for applause 😊)

- Hold slips would be printed when the item is triggered to go into transit to fill the hold.
- Yes, the slips do stay in the books.
- Slips include item barcode, destination library code, and truncated patron information.



Manifests

Each bucket has a manifest. This is a barcode affixed to the outside of the bucket- when scanned at the receiving library, all items are checked in. A report on your computer will indicate if any items need action, such as an item that was put on hold after it went in transit or a hold that was canceled and needs to go to the next patron or be returned to the owning library.

Not checking in each item individually would be a huge time savings for libraries.

Delivery will be able to customize sort criteria so some libraries could receive buckets that only contain holds or only contain returns. This would be helpful for sorter libraries.

