

2006/17 CAUL Survey on Security Gates

No of respondents: 9

1. Charles Sturt University
2. Griffith University
3. Monash University
4. Swinburne University
5. University of New England
6. University of Sunshine Coast
7. University of Western Australia
8. University of Western Sydney
9. Victoria University

Initial request for information:

Seeking advice on developments with library security gates that are wider and less obtrusive (eg fashion retail stores?)

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Summary:

- Three major suppliers of traditional library systems:
 - 3M (market leader)
http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/3n_US/library/home/products/detection_systems?3800
 - Certus <http://www.certus-eas.com/> who are represented in Australia by TagAlert
<http://www.tagalert.com.au/>
 - SA Secure (includes Knogo <http://www.librarysecurity.co.uk/16226.html>)
- There is dissent about compatibility between products and strips – understandably 3M (VU's current supplier) advises that it is not possible to change brands
- While some products advertise wider offerings and more attractive gates, considerable gains do not appear possible.
- While 3M have a 42" option, only the 36" option is available in Australia
- It is possible to configure multiple slim-line gates together to give the illusion of more space
- New gates are suitable for both incoming and ongoing traffic – again resulting in greater aesthetic appeal
- Gates are importantly used to automatically capture patron statistics – needs to be factored into design as 'gate counts' are a primary indicator
- RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) is a new technology alternative but more expensive. It is similar to retail installations and does not use the magnetic strips already in use. Consequently collections would need to be retagged. Costs are decreasing and with evidence of reduced loans data may become affordable. See:
<http://www.checkpointmeto.com.au>

Responses:

1. Charles Sturt University

We are installing new gates in two sites as a result of building works, but they are standard 3M models, nothing flash. Well actually they are flash for us, bringing us into the 2000s rather than the 1960s which is where our old gates belong!

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2. Griffith University

Cranfield University in England had a very unobtrusive set (please see attached photo's). The gates are enclosed in frosted perspex/glass and would be very at home in a retail establishment. Hazel Woodward is the UL so you may wish to follow up with her.

Most of the new style gates are similar to the example in that they are less bulky and a bit more stylish. However, most are still quite narrow to allow only one person through at a time. This seems to be so that it is easier to identify and recall the client if the alarm goes off. When the gate allows a number of people through at once recalling and checking them all can be time-consuming, annoying and invasive to the customers who have not set off the alarm. These security gates are also traditionally used to gather statistics and so operate on single exits.

Most retail options that have wider gates or use two together employ security officers at the door to check alarms. This is not usually an option in libraries. I did see a presentation from a library in Singapore a couple of years ago and I believe they had wider, lower gates (or perhaps a number of gates beside each other) which gave a more open feel and also allowed more people to exit at the one time. I believe they were using RFID technology.

The gates have had a two-fold purpose for library's - security and statistic collection, and the current models reflect that. Perhaps, the purpose of the gates needs to be reassessed and then the design will follow? I would be interested in any different designs you uncover.



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3. Monash University

Response in relation to refurbishment of Hargrave-Andrew Library. We have installed a 3M model 3804 which has 4 openings specific details are at:-

http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/library/home/products/detection_systems/3800

though this information indicates panels can be set at 36 or 42 inches apart 3M Australia recommend only 36 inches. This is still basically the typical library style system. I was at Uni Queensland recently and they have installed a new gate, more of the clear retail look which might be of interest; David Smith, Facilities Coordinator may be able to give further detail he is on (07)3365 6315 or email dc.smith@library.uq.edu.au

Contact

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4. Swinburne University

We built a new entrance at the Hawthorn Campus last year & also wanted it to be as open as possible, like a department store. We installed a 3M 3804 four aisle detection system. See attached photo.

The entrance is 5m wide & each aisle is about 1m wide. All aisles are both entry & exit.

I know some loans staff have mixed feelings as it is a bit less secure than the old sheep chase systems where it was single file & the door locked if the alarm went off, but it certainly makes for a more open & welcoming entrance.

Details of the system are at:

http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/library/home/products/detection_systems/

Contact:

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5. University of New England

We have recently installed new gates but unfortunately they are the standard awful library ones. I've attached a photo so you can see what I mean.

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6. University of Sunshine Coast

I recently read that the following system had integrated some new technologies which was (from the sales pitch...) reporting more accurate security detection with wider, less obtrusive gate set-ups. I do not know if there are any similar products by known suppliers in Australia - or compatibility with particular tags etc, but the following link may provide some information to assist you <http://www.librarysecurity.co.uk/16226.html>

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7. University of Western Australia

We at UWA have just installed new gates in our main library that work well with no false alarms from laptops etc so far and have a streamlined look.

Not sure about the width of the aisles but you can check this from the websites below.

The gates are supplied in Australia by TagAlert <http://www.tagalert.com.au/>

The manufacturer is a German Company called Certus. <http://www.certus-eas.com/>

You can also see details on the tagalert web page.

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8. University of Western Sydney

There is a company, called Tag-Alert <http://www.tagalert.com.au/html/library.html> which claim to provide gates and systems which are 'compatible' with 3M and other systems - they use equipment from a German company called Certus. Their last newsletter stated aisle widths can be varied. They use the magnetic solution, not RFID.

3M don't like them as they say nothing but genuine 3M is really compatible (as we've seen with tattle tape and selfcheck machines!) but these might be an option...

Checkpoint Meto <http://www.checkpointmeto.com.au> are an Australian/NZ company with RFID solutions. These gates are more like the retail store gates as RFID has a wide 'broadcast' than the magnetic strips, so gates can be further apart. I've seen there products at a few conferences, and it looks good - but as with most RFID, it's not cheap! They are a direct competitor to 3M.

There is another Australasian RFID company, but I can't recall their details at present - may be

ST LogiTrack (Australia)

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9. Victoria University

From 3M:

Please find attached the architects pack for the 3800 series detection system. They do have other models, however this is the most popular choice for University Libraries.

The documentation does mention a 42inch wide system, however this is not available in Australia. The distance between the frames should be set at 36inches or 914mm. Their other systems operate on the same dimensions.

They would be happy to speak directly with architects to give recommendations during the planning stage if need be.

A 3M 34 page Architect pack can be obtained on request.

3M Library Systems 11 Most Important Points for a Successful Install of Library Detection Systems

1. Three feet is the minimum distance from the Detection System Panels to a wall using metal studs.
2. Detection system distance to door is 4 ft. minimum (ADA Requirement).
3. Maintain at least 3 ft. to all metal windows, doors, walls, cabinets, shelves, pipes, counter edges, display cases, waste baskets, and furniture.
4. Within 10 ft. of power receptacles.
5. Centered on door(s).
6. At least 5 ft. from copiers.
7. At least 3 ft. from marked material.
8. Located for good observation/supervision of circulation disk.
9. For buried cable installations, use 1.5 inch I.D. non-metallic conduit with correct spacing.
10. Distance to CRT:
 - 2300 – 3 ft. minimum
 - 3800 – 8 ft. minimum
 - 3500 – 7 ft. minimum
11. Avoid positioning near power panels, data cables and large conduits. Maintain 10 ft. minimum distance.

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