

Barcodes and Library Gold

As Cadomel Library Systems have ceased trading from 5 November 2014, here is information for Library Gold customers about:

1. What barcode equipment and stationery you need to be compatible with Library Gold;
2. How to obtain or print barcode labels and cards.

Barcode requirements

Barcode reader

The reader (scanner) must have **keyboard emulation**: that is, barcodes are read into Library Gold as if they were typed at the keyboard. This type of reader is known as a **keyboard wedge (KBW)** scanner. Other types of USB reader such as RS232 are available, so make sure you purchase the right one.

You can test your scanner by opening Notepad, Wordpad or a wordprocessor on your computer. Open a blank document if necessary, then scan a barcode. If the correct barcode number appears on the screen, your scanner is compatible with Library Gold.

Barcodes

The printed barcodes we have always supplied comply with the Code 39 barcode standard. However, you may use any barcode standard that can be read by your scanner and meets the following requirements.

Each item of stock needs a unique identifying number. (Note - the ISBN is not suitable for this, since if you have more than one copy of a book, both copies will have the same ISBN.) Stock barcodes may be up to 16 digits in length, and may consist of any alphanumeric characters that can be read by your scanner.

Each library member needs a unique identifying number. Member barcodes may be up to 10 digits in length, and may consist of any alphanumeric characters that can be read by your scanner.

Printing or purchasing barcode labels and cards

Labels and cards

For book labels, we have always used Avery address labels, 24 per A4 sheet – Avery reference L7159. For member cards, we used Avery business cards ref C32011, 10 per sheet, 200gsm (these are credit card size). You may of course use other makes, sizes or formats to suit your own preferences.

Software for printing your labels and cards

Free software for printing barcodes on labels and cards is available from some label-producing companies, including Avery. An internet search for “free label printing software” will find free software for printing labels and cards and online label-printing services.

Purchasing barcode stationery

An internet search for “barcode label printing” will find companies who will print barcodes on labels, cards, etc to your specifications.