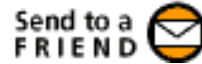




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SBS Manages over 50,000 Tapes with the Phaser™ P460



Introduction



The Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) is Australia's multicultural and multilingual national public broadcaster in television, radio and new media. With access to more than 400 international and national

program sources, SBS transmits programs in more than 60 languages. Hundreds of hours of films, documentaries, dramas, arts, animation and music programs are subtitled each year. SBS also provides more than 50 hours of international news bulletins each week - 22 different news services from 18 countries in 17 languages - in addition to its World News bulletins and SBS's award-winning current affairs programs. More than 7.6 million Australians view SBS Television each week.

Links & more

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The Challenge: Manage a Constantly Changing Stock of Over 50,000 Tapes

The SBS program library manages more than 50,000 broadcast videotapes, stocking the programs of all SBS divisions. The program library is constantly updating its collection records due to the workload demanded by SBS divisions.

With tapes always moving between divisions and people both within SBS and out-of-house, the program library was already using a barcode scanning system because their videotapes move around so fast that paper-based information would be outdated and inaccurate. Tracking videotape information not only requires understanding the media content, but also its corresponding contractual information.

However, the old system often broke down and often needed new batteries. The program library was seeking a reliable barcode scanning solution that could handle the heavy workload of multiple transactions and constant movement around the library premises with a better ergonomic design to facilitate handheld scanning by the staff.

The Solution: Data Capture by Ergonomic Mobile Barcode Scanning

A batch data capture software solution was created by DataTrack Solutions, and integrated with Pilat, the legacy computer system used by SBS to control information on all programs transmitted. The software runs on Symbol's [Phaser™ P460](#) handheld scanner - a rugged, high performance scanner ergonomically designed to minimize fatigue in scan-intensive applications. Each videotape within the program library was already assigned a unique barcode that can be scanned to track movement of the videotape.



Library staff can use the P460 in two different modes, as a memory scanner and as a cabled scanner. In either mode, the scanner captures the User ID (the person moving the videotape),

the new location (the department or person where the videotape is going), time, date, and barcode number when scanning the barcode on the videotape.

With the [P460](#) in memory mode, the librarians are mobile workers who freely roam the library premises to manage inventory. The memory scanner mode allows for roaming up to 12 hours, much longer than the average work shift. Staff roam the library with a trolley, scanning videotapes using the P460, either for stocktakes or for gathering videotapes for the next day's play. After all required videotapes are scanned into the trolley, the scanner is plugged back into the PC to upload the data.

With the P460 cabled to a PC, the librarian scans the barcode upon receipt of the videotape back into the library. During cabled scanner mode, the librarian is usually seated at a workspace. The scanner is configured to scan the barcode and enter all data directly into the legacy computer system via the cabled connection.

Benefits

"Our staff find the scanners easy to use, and can use them no matter where they are in the library." said Kelli Mark, Chief Librarian, SBS Program library, "We find that the actual zapping is easier with the new scanners, with the reporting more complex than before. Even so, the final result is that our work is a lot easier and more efficient with the new system."

Summary

In Summary: Special Broadcasting System (SBS Australia)	
Organization:	Special Broadcasting System (SBS Australia) www.sbs.com.au
Market:	Broadcasting
Challenge:	Track over 50,000 videotapes that are constantly moving within SBS and out-of-house while maintaining accurate videotape data on the central database
Solution:	DataTrack installed customized data capture software on Symbol Phaser™ P460 handheld scanners.
Solution Partners:	DataTrack Solutions www.datatrack.com.au

