In Spring, 2017, the RFID Committee, a subcommittee of the TLN Technology Committee, reviewed responses to a Request for Information (RFI) and viewed demos from 4 RFID vendors (TechLogic, mkSolutions, EnvisionWare, and Bibliotheca). The following are recommendations developed from that process.

For All Libraries
1. Whenever purchasing tags or equipment please keep in mind the multiple tag data models in use within TLN, as described in the TLN Technology Committee document Best Practice: RFID.
2. Don't forget recommendation 1.

For Libraries New to RFID
1. The committee recommends EnvisionWare or Tech Logic. While it is possible to mix and match products from multiple vendors, initial implementation will be more difficult working with multiple vendors.
2. We recommend talking with more than one vendor and getting quotes that include 5 years of service and support. Initial costs and ongoing support costs vary by vendor so looking at year 1 only doesn't provide a complete comparison.
3. Visiting other TLN/Shared System libraries using different RFID vendors will give a good idea of the differences in products being considered.
4. Before going live with RFID at your library, it is recommended that you request sample tags from libraries using different vendors to ensure the vendor's products can read the multiple tag data formats in use throughout TLN.

For Libraries that have RFID looking at component upgrades
1. EnvisionWare, Tech Logic, Bibliotheca, and mk Solutions all have products that may fit your needs. mk Solutions currently does not have a presence in the TLN region.

For ongoing tag purchases
1. TLN has pricing agreements with vendors (see below). Getting quotes from alternate vendors before ordering could prove beneficial.

TLN Consortia Pricing
1. TLN has pricing agreements with Envisionware, Tech Logic, and Bibliotheca. Discounts are available for all public libraries in Michigan.
2. TLN has a list of contacts for the three preferred vendors. The contact information can be found at this link: http://tln.lib.mi.us/discounts/. We recommend you contact the vendors direct for price quotes. Please be sure to let them know that you would like to take advantage of the TLN consortia discount when a quote is provided. The order would be direct from the library to the vendor. TLN is providing consortia pricing for the benefit of the libraries.

Questions regarding RFID consortia pricing?
Please contact Angie Michelini, amichelini@tln.lib.mi.us