

Library : jail and prison initiatives

PROGRAMS (by state):

California

[Alameda County Library Foundation: Start with a story](#)

Start with a story provides books, story times, and outreach to the hundreds of children who visit their parents at two Alameda County Jails. *Start With A Story* operates at the jail on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Volunteers staff a table with a wide selection of books catering to a range of ages and interests. Each child visiting the table may choose a book to keep. Volunteers often read to the children. *Start With A Story* helps youngsters improve their reading skills, become more interested in reading, and learn more about library services and programs. *Start With A Story* also helps encourage regular family visits to the jail by making the visits a more pleasant experience. Research has found that frequent and regular family visitation can greatly reduce the trauma experienced by the child as a result of the separation while also improving the inmate's potential for a successful parole after release from prison. However, jails can be frightening and cold places for children to visit, often providing noisy, crowded visiting areas. Children are often relegated to many long hours of waiting at the jail for a brief visit with an incarcerated parent or guardian. *Start With A Story* offers these children the most precious of all opportunities: the chance to escape inside a good book. In the coming year, *Start With A Story* plans to distribute over 2,600 books to children and youth visiting parents at Santa Rita Jail.

Amador County Library/California Library Literacy

https://library.ca.gov/Content/pdf/pressreleases/2021-05-25-CA_Library_Literacy_Services.pdf

In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, library literacy programs partnered with 701 community agencies to deliver literacy services. Partnering agencies included adult schools and community colleges, Head Starts and other early learning organizations, homeless shelters and housing authorities, jails and juvenile justice departments, faith-based organizations, local businesses, and non-profit organizations. Library literacy programs and their partners shared space, provided resources and instruction to one another's communities, and provided supportive referrals to one another's services.

[San Francisco Public Library - Jail and Reentry Services \(JARS\)](#)

Jail and Reentry Services (JARS) provides weekly library services inside San Francisco's county jails, and conducts outreach at reentry-related events for recently incarcerated people. JARS staff coordinates the SFPL's Reference by Mail program – where incarcerated people can mail a reference question and receive a professionally researched reply. JARS promotes library programs and services relevant to people who are in the process of reentry and to their families and communities, including programs about accessing housing, legal information, storytimes and children's events across the city, and programs related to learning to read or to use smartphones and computers. [More info](#).

Colorado

[Arapahoe Libraries](#)

Arapahoe Libraries is proud to operate a modified branch inside of the Arapahoe County Detention Facility. Patrons in jail can talk to staff about legal reference materials, as is their right. We also offer recreational reading materials. On average, 80% of inmates in the jail use library services each week.

Colorado State Library - Read to the Children

A collaboration between the Colorado State Library and the Colorado Department of Corrections that provided a book to young family members of people in prisons, along with a recording of their parent reading it.

- [Fast Facts, 2016, LRS](#) [infographic]
- [Sample recordings](#)

Colorado Library Consortium and Colorado State Library

An [IMLS-funded](#), statewide, outcome-assessment of prison libraries. The planning project will determine how best to assess prison library contributions to offenders' development of pro-social behaviors that help them stay occupied productively and out of trouble while incarcerated and maximize their chances of successful re-entry into the community. This project will fill a gap in research on evidence-based practices for correctional libraries and accommodate the complexities of the secure corrections environment.

[Denver Public Library - Free to Learn](#)

Weekly, staffed, two-hour computer lab specifically for women who have been incarcerated. Participants use computers for whatever they need, but can also receive individualized instruction from the staff on topics ranging from basic computer use to online job seeking and resume writing. *(Inactive.)*

- [Interviews \(anecdotal impact statements\)](#)

Georgia

[Next Chapter: Dade County Public Library](#)

A collaboration among the public library, Sheriff's Office, and Bank of Dade seeks to reduce the county's 70 percent recidivism rate through an enrichment program called Next Chapter, which promotes digital literacy, economic self-sufficiency, and stable living for inmates of the Dade County Jail. Developed "in part by asking repeat offenders what resources they thought were needed to keep them out of jail for good." [A grant from the Institute for Library and Museum Services \(IMLS\)](#) funded a videographer for one year to film and edit coursework. Local organizations and residents can participate by teaching videos sharing their own skills.

Illinois

Chicago State University and partners [will use this grant from the IMLS](#) to establish an institute with public library staff and community partners to foster innovative programs and services that support community members who are facing onerous and complex challenges such as poverty, violence, and incarceration; identify target users and their needs; develop promising initial solutions; and share details of initial insights and approaches with other libraries and communities.

Northwestern University Libraries NPEP Library Support Program

The NPEP Library Program supports the educational mission and activities of the Northwestern Prison Education Project by enabling access to research materials and consultations with librarians, strengthening our collections in social justice, creating open access print and web publications, extending our suite of services to incarcerated students, and applying the ethics of librarianship to advocate for alternatives to policing, surveillance, and incarceration.

Indiana

[Monroe County Jail Library Service](#)

In existence since 1986, Jail Library Service is a cooperative agreement between the Monroe County Correctional Center (MCCC) and the Library. The Jail Library circulates over 1,000 books a month. MCCC provides space for the Library within the jail, as well as funds for books and other Library materials. We provides staff members to operate the Jail Library and to maintain the collection three afternoons a week.

Louisiana

[Second Chances: Re-Entry for Women \[Informational Session\]](#)

With an aim to reduce the probability of women returning to prison, 2nd Chance Living PMI shared information about the workforce development and mental health resources that they offer. The program received [local media attention](#).

Maryland

Frederick County Public Libraries staffs the librarian for the Frederick County Adult Detention Center. No collection sharing is allowed, but all materials are acquired through donations, discards, and orders placed through the library materials collection (reimbursed through the jail's inmate canteen funds.) The detention center library is also the only fully staffed law library in the county. Note that it is difficult to find current information on this program; [here is a 2010 annual report](#).

The Harford County Public Library donated copies of Charlie Mackesy's book, "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse," to the graduates of the Circuit Court's Adult Drug Court at a graduation ceremony [per local news coverage](#).

[Mongtomery County Public Libraries Correctional Facility \(MCCF\) Library](#) provides inmates access to recreational, educational, and legal materials in order to improve and enrich their lives as well as to facilitate successful community reentry. The library holds approximately 15,000 books, including materials in several languages. As mandated by Maryland and Federal law, the MCCF Library provides select legal resources in print for inmates researching their active cases or matters of incarceration. A librarian conducts online searches of statutes and case law per inmate request. Inmates visit the library on a rotating schedule to borrow books and to do legal research. Word-processing computers are available to inmates; however, Internet access is not available.

Massachusetts

Boston Public Library

Boston Public Library has been a partner with the [Department of Youth Services](#) (DYS), the juvenile justice agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Boston Public Library teen librarians regularly visit DYS schools bringing in book deposits, talking about the books, and promoting Boston Public Library services and programs. Occasionally we bring special guest speakers. For the past three years the library has run a summer reading program for the youth in DYS. Book deposits are small collections of library books left at a facility for a short period of time, then exchanged for new books. Librarians will bring in popular books and books that are requested by the teens.

Concord Free Public Library - Concord Public Library Program

Mentioned on page 19 of the Massachusetts Department of Correction Program Description Booklet. People incarcerated at the Northeast Correctional Center are able to check books out of the Concord Free Public Library.

Minnesota

Hennepin County Library:

Adults

Weekly library service and onsite libraries at the Hennepin County Adult Corrections Facility (ACF), monthly service at the Public Safety Facility (PSF), and visits to MN DOC state prisons to promote public libraries as reentry resources.

Programs:

- [Read to Me](#): a family literacy program to connect people in facilities with the children in their lives.
- Other programs include job resource workshops, [Writing through Loss](#), One Reads, Author Visits and storytellers.
- Reentry resources developed include Freedom Ticket [video](#) and the Going Home [guide](#).
- Weekly library service at the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC). Onsite library support at the the County Home School (CHS).

Missouri

The [St. Louis County Library “Tap-In Center”](#) connects visitors with legal advice and support services. The partnership brings together the St. Louis County Library, the Missouri State Public Defender’s Office, The Bail Project, MacArthur Foundation Safety & Justice Challenge, University of Missouri-St. Louis, the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office and the St. Louis County Department of Justice Services. Media coverage [here](#). [“County library’s ‘Tap-In Center’ helps residents resolve warrants, get legal assistance”](#):

New Jersey

[Fresh Start \(via NJ State Library\) - see fact sheet](#)

Fresh Start enables participating libraries to provide reentry support and services to citizens returning to their home communities after being paroled or after completing their prison terms.

[See coverage on NPR here.](#)

Thomas Edison State University/[IMLS grant](#)

New Jersey State Library and partners, New Jersey State Parole Board, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Long Branch (NJ) Public Library, and Free Library of Philadelphia propose a two-year project for public libraries in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, in collaboration with other government and nonprofit organizations, to provide services to citizens returning to their communities after being paroled or after completing their prison terms. The project will develop a process model and a toolkit of best practices for libraries to collaboratively assist local communities and their returning citizens with the reentry process. An Advisory Committee, including public library staff with experience helping returning citizens in San Francisco, Denver, and Washington, D.C., will inform and monitor the project.

New York

[Brooklyn Public Library - Justice Initiatives](#)

Part of BPL's Outreach Services department, Justice Initiatives works to support incarcerated and formerly incarcerated patrons and their families and to raise public awareness of issues of racial, social, and economic justice.

[Brooklyn Public Library Jail and Prison Services](#)

Using innovative programming and robust access to resources, we connect incarcerated New Yorkers to their families and communities. We offer jail-based library services for individuals in NYC Department of Correction (DOC) facilities, and special programs and services for other incarcerated patrons. These include their [telestory program](#).

The Brooklyn Public Library hosted the Hank Willis Thomas project, "The writing on the wall," in September 2020. The wheatpasting activation was scheduled to then take place in locations in Nashville, Denver, Philadelphia, Boston and Orlando in the following weeks. These works will include QR codes that lead to [The Writing on the Wall website](#) and INN's [#DefundThePrisons](#) campaign.

[Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System](#)

The purpose of the program is to supplement library services and resources for inmates in State correctional institutions by providing inmates with broader access to library materials, services, and the statewide library network. CCLS supports one prison and two county jail libraries.

Through NY state funding, CCLS is able to offer ILL services to all three correctional libraries. CCLS is a two-county rural library system serving approximately 203,000 people.

[New York Public Library - Correctional Services](#)

NYPL runs circulating book services in NYC DOC facilities, and other library programs and services for people in jails and prisons across NY, including: Reference by Mail service for incarcerated people, family literacy programs for incarcerated parents/caregivers, book discussions groups in prison, and more. NYPL publishes *Connections*, an annual reentry resource guide, available to help currently and formerly incarcerated people and their families and friends. The *Connections* book is free to everyone and is distributed to people in jail and prison, to community organizations, or any community member, online or in our neighborhood branches.

[Queens Public Library - Correctional Outreach](#)

Part of QPL's Community Outreach programming. Provides job skills training, technology workshops, and literacy/high school equivalency programs. Supports incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and justice involved patrons and their families via the following services: one-hour [video visitation at the library](#), library services three days a week at Rikers Island facilities with librarian and mobile book cart ([accepting donations](#)), [Reentry Resources Guide](#), See You on the Outside Reentry Program (resume, case management services, & OSHA-30 voucher), and services to NYC Parole and Probation. Member of [Queens County Reentry Taskforce](#).

[Queens Borough Public Library CARES Act IMLS grant](#)

The Queens Public Library will partner with Queens Defenders, a public defender organization, to recruit parolee participants and provide them with the information, skills, technology, and connections to resources needed to reintegrate successfully and avoid recidivism. The Immediate Access Technology Reentry Program will address parolees' unique transition from correctional facility to society during a pandemic. This program will assist 75 formerly incarcerated individuals over a two-year period. Participants will receive a smart phone, gain the experience and skills to use their phones to connect, and acquire digital skills, knowledge, and resources.

North Carolina

UNC at Chapel Hill/[IMLS grant](#)

WiderNet@UNC will build a coalition of correctional institutions to increase the use of off-line digital education resources in the innovative Corrections Off-Line Education Platform, creating opportunities to improve rehabilitation and reduce recidivism for millions in the U.S. prison system. Outcomes will include a prototype collection and a blueprint for a long-term, sustained effort to improve information access for librarians, educators, and students in correctional institutions. This project will serve as resource for prison educators and librarians to develop an off-line alternative to the internet that delivers abundant resources for teaching English as a

Second Language, GED preparation, high school completion, post-secondary courses, life skills, and vocational training. [Visit the Corrections Offline Educational Platform here.](#)

Oregon

Multnomah County Library location at Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention facility

“As part of a broader set of programs for youth in custody, a library outreach specialist visits each unit and connects with the youth through books. The library outreach specialist listens to what they’re interested in, purchases materials that both meet those interests and introduces new topics, and gives brief but high interest booktalks. In 2018, the library provided youth at the Donald E. Long facility with over 2,300 new books and 200 hours of direct service staff time.

See blog: <https://multcolib.org/blog/20201102/different-library-calling-donald-e-long-jody-redifer>

And 2018 Equity and Inclusion report:

<https://multcolib.org/sites/default/files/MCL-2018-Equity-and-Inclusion-Report-JAN20.pdf>

Multnomah County Library Jail Services

<https://multcolib.org/jail-services>

library service to county jails, through a cooperative arrangement with the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office. We select books for each of the living units in the county jails. Recreational reading is geared to inmate literacy, language and reading interests. Informational reading includes recovery, jobs, life skills, domestic violence and other practical subjects. Inmates participate in book discussion groups led by library staff and volunteers. These literacy development groups acquaint inmates with new ideas and library services.

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia - [Free Libraries Foundation \(IMLS 1\)](#)

The Free Library of Philadelphia will develop Prison Services: Expanding Opportunities for Incarcerated Parents and Their Families at Neighborhood Libraries. Prison Services focuses on meeting the immediate needs of incarcerated parents, returning citizens, and their children and families by connecting them to critical resources, literacy and workforce development programs, and supporting family connectedness. The goal is to forge long-term relationships between inmates and libraries. The [Stories Alive Program](#) is a live, Skype-style storytime between inmates in the PDP and their children and family members who gather in our neighborhood libraries.

Philadelphia - [Free Libraries Foundation \(IMLS 2\)](#)

The Free Library of Philadelphia, in partnership with nine community agencies, will develop a model for how public libraries can fully integrate their work with the broader systems of workforce development and adult education. The project will utilize a collective impact approach, emphasizing mutually reinforcing activities, shared measurement systems, and continuous communication, to drive social change. The work of the partners will be centered in the Paschalville neighborhood in Southwest Philadelphia, which is characterized by extreme poverty, high unemployment, and low levels of educational attainment. The project will have a

special focus on serving the needs of residents from immigrant/refugee communities or who have a history of incarceration.

Literacy Unlocked: Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

<https://www.carnegielibrary.org/literacy-unlocked/>

Literacy Unlocked is a partnership between the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and the Allegheny County Jail (ACJ). Each month, librarians bring book clubs, financial education, resume building, parenting classes and more to the inmates at the ACJ.

Virginia

Chesapeake Public Library provides CARES carts to a local jail, as mentioned in [this local news article](#).

Washington

[Seattle Public Library - Read to Me!](#)

Facilitates incarcerated parents readings stories to their children. Modeled after partnership between NYPL and Rikers Island Prison Complex. For parents with kids up to age 7. Children's librarians lead early literacy/read-aloud workshops and provide technology/backdrop for videos. Children receive the story with inscription from parent, the video-recording, and a copy of Far Apart, Close in Heart. SPL also supplements KCCF's book collection with quarterly paperback book delivery. As of 2019 there were plans to expand to reentry services (cards, job training, community resource specialist, technology classes).

[Snoqualmie/University of Washington \(IMLS\)](#)

The University of Washington Information School, in partnership with the state library, King County Library System, and Echo Glen Children's Center for Juvenile Rehabilitation in Snoqualmie, will develop a three-part digital arts education program for youth in juvenile rehabilitation. The project aims to provide leadership opportunities to incarcerated youth by providing them access to the digital arts and virtual reality industry.

[Spokane Community Court](#)

The Spokane Municipal Community Court takes place at the Downtown branch of the Spokane Library, and seeks to reduce and properly address quality of life offenses in the downtown area by utilizing a collaborative, problem-solving approach to crime. See the Community Court brochure [here](#).

GROUPS:

- Abolitionist Library Association (AbLA): a collective of library workers, students, and community members taking action to divest from all forms of policing in libraries and invest in our collective liberation. [Join the listserv here.](#)
- [ASGLA, the Association of Specialized Government and Cooperative Library Agencies \(ASCLA\)](#):
ASGCLA has been dissolved as an ALA division.

The Association of Specialized Government and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA) was known as the division where ALA members could find information and build capacity to serve populations that are served by state library agencies, federal libraries, armed forces libraries, specialized libraries (Library agencies and individuals which provide library materials and service to underserved populations which include, but are not limited to, people with sensory, physical, health, developmental, learning, attention, or behavioral conditions, and people who are incarcerated or detained), library networks and cooperatives, and library consultants. ASGCLA member activity centered around our interest groups.

- [IFLA Working Group on Prison Libraries](#)
About 50 members from around the world.
- [Incarceration Nation Networks](#)
The Incarceration Nations Network (INN) is a global network and think-tank that supports, instigates and popularizes innovative prison reform efforts around the world
- [Library Services to the Justice Involved](#) (LSJI) (previously known as Library Services to the Incarcerated and Detained), an ALA interest group.

Library services for the incarcerated provide opportunities for reading and access to information for adults and juveniles confined to federal, state and county institutions and to facilities operated by private, for-profit contractors. In 2008, well over 2 million Americans either convicted of a crime or awaiting trial were held in prisons, detention centers, jails, juvenile halls, work camps, forensic facilities or hospitals for the criminally insane. An unknown number of non-citizens convicted of crimes or waiting to be deported were confined by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency in county jails or in privately operated detention centers.

As ex-offenders return to their home communities, they need library and information services designed to assist in their successful readjustment to society - and to ameliorate the impact of their confinement.

- [Prison Library Support Network](#)

The Prison Library Support Network is an information-based collective founded in 2016 to support incarcerated people by organizing networks for sharing resources and building community around prison abolition in libraries, archives, and other knowledge-based institutions.

RESOURCE GUIDES:

- [Freedom Ticket, Hennepin County Library \(MN\)](#)
- [Hartford Public Library Re-entry & Support Services Resource Guide](#)
- [San Francisco Public Library Reentry Resources](#)
- [Reentry and Employment Resources for Justice-Involved Individuals](#)
- [ALA Prison Library LibGuide](#)
- [LIST OF LAW LIBRARIES SERVING PRISONERS](#)
- [Arapahoe Libraries blog post](#)
 - [Resource list for incarcerated loved ones](#)
- [Boston Prison Books Program National Prisoner Resource List](#) - see link to MORE resource lists! And printable PDF includes list of Books Through Bars organizations. Note that the BPBP Resource list "includes a section on "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender" organizations across the country, and brief descriptions of what these organizations do. Some are non-profit organizations, and some are for profit organizations, which offer free materials for LGBTQ inmates.
- Incarceration Nations Network [toolkits](#)
- [Incarceration \(Un\)Interrupted: Reclaiming Bodies, Lands, and Communities: International Roundtable Research Guide](#)
- [The Chicago Prison Industrial Complex \(PIC\) Teaching Collective Resource Guide](#)
- [Prison Culture Essential PIC Reading List](#)
- [Expanding Opportunities for Incarcerated Parents and Their Families A Toolkit for Public Libraries](#)

Stories Alive, the family televisiting program, encourages family literacy and family bonding using live videoconferencing stations to link incarcerated parents at the prison with their children at a neighborhood library. Stories Alive family participants receive library cards, and the incarcerated parents are offered temporary library cards that are valid for one year after their release. In most cases, official forms of identification are required to obtain a library card; the temporary library card program removes this barrier by providing immediate access to Free Library resources. This allows reentering citizens time to address any challenges obtaining proper forms of ID post-release.

ARTICLES:

Allday, E. and Bitker, J. 2018. ["SF jail inmates free their minds, find peace thanks to new library program."](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Newspaper article about [SFPL's JARS](#).

Cottrell, M. 2017. [Keeping Inmates on the Outside: Libraries offer services and support to ease prisoner reentry](#). *American Libraries*. January 3, 2017.

Highlights library programs helping people to connect with resources to stay out of jails and prisons, and keeping families connected while a loved one is incarcerated. A sidebar offers tips as to how other libraries can help people who have been released from prisons.

Dankowski, Terra. 2016. [Preparing Inmates for Life After Prison: Libraries and outreach programs focus on reentry](#). *American Libraries*. June 27, 2016.

Jacquie Welsh and the Los Angeles Public Library's "Pathways," a program (no longer in existence) designed to provide resources to those reentering the community after prison.

De la Pena, K. 2004. Public libraries and people in jail. *School of Information Faculty Publications*, 106. Retrieved from

https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1105&context=si_facpub

A search of public library web sites in 2004 yielded several examples of public library outreach to jails

Graham, L. 2020. Libraries, prisons, and abolition. *IUPUI Department of Library and Information Science blog*. Retrieved from

<https://scholarworks.iupui.edu/bitstream/handle/1805/24045/Graham2020LibrariesPrisonsAbolition.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

A three-part blog about on prisons, libraries, and abolition, including many resource links.

Hall, T. D. 2021. [Defending the fifth freedom: Protecting the right to read for incarcerated individuals](#). *American Libraries*. January 4, 2021.

Traci D. Hall, the Executive Director of the ALA writes, "The most chilling aspects of incarceration are the egregious invisibility of the detained and the indiscernibility of the attendant and repeated violation of their human rights, like the right to read."

[IFLA, 2005. Guidelines for library services to prisoners, 3rd ed.](#)

"In addition to being a practical tool for the establishment, operation, and assessment of prison libraries, these guidelines shall serve as a general statement of principle for the fundamental right of prisoners to read, learn, and access information."

[IFLA/UNESCO 1995 Public Library Manifesto](#)

"This Manifesto proclaims UNESCO's belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace

and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women. It calls on public libraries to provide services to people in prisons.”

IFLA. 2020. An interview with Lisa Krolak. <https://www.ifla.org/node/92911>

Krolak, L. 2019. *Books beyond bars: The transformative potential of prison libraries*. Hamburg: UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

“This publication explores the extent to which prison authorities around the globe enable inmates to pursue their right to education through access to books and information by using prison libraries. It takes a closer look at selected examples highlighting the current state of prison library systems around the world, outlining best practice and possible challenges. Its contents are grounded in the authoritative frameworks of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules; UNODC, 2015), as well as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions’ (IFLA) Guidelines for Library Services to Prisoners.”

Krolak, L. 2021. [How can the library community serve people in institutions, such as prisons and homes for the elderly, in times of Covid-19?](#). IFLA Library Policy and Advocacy Blog.

A conversation starter regarding library services to people in institutions during the coronavirus pandemic.

Lehmann, V. 2011. [Challenges and Accomplishments in U.S. Prison Libraries](#). *Library Trends*, 59 (3).u

This article focuses on the evolution of prison library services in the United States and the changes in the roles and purposes of prison libraries over the last two centuries. Includes examples of library services and programs.

Lilienthal, S. 2013. Prison and libraries: Public service inside and out. LJ.

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=prison-and-public-libraries>

Highlights the New York Public Library’s (NYPL) Correctional Services Program (CSP), Hennepin County Library’s services, and other programs.

Meyer, M. 2017. [“First inmate released with library card in hand due to new partnership.”](#) ifiberone News.

Local coverage of a partnership with the Washington State Library and the Spokane Public Library is now allowing inmates to get library cards before they are even released from prison.

Peterson, K. 2020. No right to read: Profiteering corporations creep into prison libraries.

People’s World. Retrieved from

<https://peoplesworld.org/article/no-right-to-read-profiteering-corporations-creep-into-prison-libraries/>

The author describes how contracts between prisons and a private commissary vendors are limiting access to books to prisoners.

Pool, J. 1977. Public library services to correctional facilities. *Library Trends*, 26 (1), p. 139-152. https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/bitstream/handle/2142/6940/librarytrendsv26i1k_opt.pdf?sequence=1

“An analysis of the factors which have influenced the extension of public library services into correctional institutions. Appropriate examples of services and citations to the literature are included.”

Rihl, J. 2020. ‘I’m going to be lost now’: ACJ limits inmates’ access to books, raising mental health concerns amid pandemic restrictions. *Public Source*. <https://www.publicsource.org/allegheeny-county-jail-book-restricted-inmate-mental-health-pandemic/>

Local news about policy changes at Allegheny County Jails and the shift to tablets, and concerns about first amendment rights and mental health.

Ringrose, K. 2020. Libraries & Reentry: [The importance of public spaces, technology, and community to formerly incarcerated patrons](#). *ALA Policy Perspectives*, September 2020: Issue 7.

ALA Policy paper offers examples as to how public libraries serve people impacted by the prison industrial complex.

von Essen, L. R. 2021. The ever-growing challenge of getting books to people in prisons. *BookRiot*, 5 March. <https://bookriot.com/books-in-prisons/>

PODCASTS

[Ear Hustle](#)

A podcast from inside of San Quentin State Prison that “brings you the stories of life inside prison, shared and produced by those living it.”

[“Making Revolution Irresistible.”](#) *Louder Than a Riot*. NPR.

Includes a conversation between Chicago rapper Noname and abolitionist Mariame Kaba about the potentials of abolishing prisons for good. Is reform a means to that end, or a hindrance? And, as Toni Cade Bambara says, is it the artist's job to make revolution irresistible?

PRESENTATIONS

Austin, J. and Villanicholas, M. [Reimagining the Public Library Services to People in Jails and Prisons](#)

WEBSITES

- [Chicago PIC Teaching Collective](#)
- [Dr. Jeanie Austin](#)
- [Prison Culture](#)
- [Project NIA](#)