


"Banned Books Week (September 18 - 24, 2022) is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. Typically held during the last week of September, it spotlights current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools. It brings together the entire book community — librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular." - [the American Library Association](https://www.ala.org/banned-books-week)

The Delaware Library Association's Correctional Services Interest Group supports our incarcerated community's right to read, and believes that efforts to censor books and access to information in prison matter just as much as those currently happening in schools, libraries, and bookstores across the country. Here in Delaware, as we work to establish library services for our incarcerated patrons, we're learning just how little access to reading materials and other forms of information those patrons are granted. The books that are banned for incarcerated readers on a national level often parallel those being banned in schools and libraries - books by Black authors, books on the history of racism and oppression, and books about queer and trans issues, whether fiction or non-fiction. We feel this is an issue that is too often ignored, and want to use the opportunity of this year's Banned Books Week to draw attention to it. Below are some resources we've gathered so you can learn more about book bans and censorship in prisons throughout the US, and a few Books to Prisoners projects you can donate towards to help keep reading possible for those incarcerated in Delaware while we continue to work to make library services available.

Thank you for your support of Delaware's incarcerated readers.

Learn More About Prison Censorship:

- [Literature Locked Up: How Prison Book Restriction Policies Constitute the Nation's Largest Book Ban - PEN America](#)
- [Censorship behind bars: How prison book restrictions make up the nation's largest book ban](#)
- [The Cruel Practice of Banning Books Behind Bars | Vera Institute](#)
- [Prison Censorship Should Be a Bigger Discussion in Banned Book Week](#)
- [The Cost of "Free" Prison Tablets - Appalachian Prison Book Project](#)
-  [Panel: Censorship in Prisons, A Banned Books Week Event](#)
- [Prison Officials Remove Ban on Attica Book. Except for 2 Crucial Pages](#)

Donate to Books to Prisoners groups who fulfill book requests for Delaware's readers inside:

For any Delaware prison:

Prison Book Program

1306 Hancock St Suite 100
Quincy MA 02169

<https://prisonbookprogram.org/donate-book/s/>

Prisoners Literature Project

c/o Bound Together Books
1369 Haight Street

San Francisco, CA 94117

<https://www.prisonlit.org/donate/>

Books Through Bars Philadelphia

4722 Baltimore Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19143

<https://www.booksthroughbars.org/donate-books>

For any Delaware prison that accepts used books

(excludes Howard R. Young):

BTP

92 Pike St
Seattle, WA 98101

<https://www.bookstoprisoners.net/send-book/s/>

For those incarcerated at Baylor:

Chicago Books to Women in Prison

4511 N. Hermitage Ave.

Chicago, IL 60640

<https://chicagobwp.org/how-to-help/>

For those who are LGBTQ+:

LGBT Books to Prisoners

c/o Social Justice Center Incubator
1202 Williamson St #1

Madison, WI 53703

<https://lgbtbookstoprisoners.org/donate>