



Library Services to People with Special Needs

Working Tools for Prison Libraries

International tools:

IFLA, the global voice of the library community, has a section on Library Services to People with Special Needs (LSN). The [IFLA LSN Section](#) provides an international forum for the discussion of ideas, sharing of experiences and development of tools designed to promote and improve the effectiveness of library and information services to special needs groups, and the promotion of national and international cooperation at all levels.

These groups include, but are not limited to, people who are in hospitals, nursing homes, and other care facilities; **people in prisons**; people who are experiencing homelessness; people with physical disabilities; people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind; people with dyslexia; and people with cognitive and mental disabilities.

One ongoing project of the section is updating the **IFLA Guidelines for library services to prisoners**.

Lehmann, V. and Locke, J. 2005. *Guidelines for library services to prisoners*. 3rd edition. IFLA Professional Reports, No. 92. The Hague, IFLA. [pdf] Available at:

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/publications/professional-report/92.pdf>

Members of the section formed in 2019 the [IFLA Working Group on Prison Libraries](#).

National tools:

Asia and the Pacific

Australia:

Australian Library and Information Association Minimum Standard Guidelines for Library Services to Prisoners (2015):

<http://www.alia.org.au/about-alia/policies-and-guidelines/alia-policies/prison-guidelines>

Sri Lanka:

Sri Lanka published in 2020 **Prison Library Guidelines** in the local Sinhala and Tamil languages. An English translation will follow soon.

Europe

Germany:

Förderverein Gefangenenbüchereien e.V. (Association for prison libraries)

<https://www.bibliotheksverband.de/fachgruppen/arbeitsgruppen/gefangenenbuechereien/foerderverein.html>

Contact:

foerderverein@gefangenenbuechereien.de or kontakt@fvgb.de
<http://www.fvgb.de> or <http://www.libertree.eu>

Richtlinien für die Bibliotheksarbeit in den Justizvollzugs- und Jugendarrestanstalten des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen (2019) (Guidelines for prison library work in the federal state of Northrhine-Westfalia)

<http://www.jvv.nrw.de/anzeigeText.jsp?daten=1243&daten2=Vor#inhalt>

Sweden:

Expertnätverk för fängelsebibliotek

(Expert network for prison libraries of the Swedish library association)

<https://www.biblioteksforeningen.se/expertnatverk/expertnatverk-for-fangelsebibliotek>

Contact:

thomas.ohnell@kriminalvarden.se or erik.kilsberger@kriminalvarden.se

Swedish E-Mail Listserv:

nv_fangelse@lists.biblioteksforeningen.se

UK:

CILIP Prison Libraries Group

The Prison Libraries Group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) is an active, welcoming community of prison library staff who are committed to securing wider recognition of the importance of prison libraries and the difference they make. Membership of the Group is open to all CILIP members.

https://www.cilip.org.uk/members/group_content_view.asp?group=201309&id=691326

Contact: info.prlg@cilip.org.uk

Prison Libraries Group. 2014. *Prison libraries training pack*. London, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP). [pdf] Available at:

https://archive.cilip.org.uk/sites/default/files/Prison_Libraries_Training_Pack_May_2014.pdf

Collins, R. and Boden L.: *Guidelines for Prison Libraries*. London: Library Association Publishing, 1997.

Prison Reading Groups was set up in 1999 to help start, fund and support reading groups in prisons. Since 2017 it has been part of the registered charity "Give a Book". They now run groups in over 40 prisons nationwide.

https://www.cilip.org.uk/members/group_content_view.asp?group=201309&id=695279

Latin America and the Caribbean

Brazil:

Comissão Brasileira de Bibliotecas Prisionais – CBBP (Brazilian Commission of Prison Libraries) is a representative of Febab (Brazilian Federation of Library Associations)

<https://www.acoesfebab.com/prisionais>

Contact: Catia Lindemann, President of the Commission

catialindemann@hotmail.com

Chile:

Biblioteca Carcelaria (Prison Libraries)

Sistema Nacional de Bibliotecas Públicas

Servicio Nacional del Patrimonio Cultural

<https://www.bibliotecaspublicas.gob.cl/sitio/Palabras-Clave/Biblioteca-carcelaria/>

Plan de Bibliotecas en Recintos Penitenciarios (Prison Library Plan)

<http://bibliotecasencarceles.biblioredes.cl/>

Contact: Miguel Rivera Donoso, Coordinador del Plan de Bibliotecas en Recintos Penitenciarios

mrivera@biblioredes.gob.cl

Video on their programme: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5yea-mCYa4>

North America

USA:

The [Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services](#) of the American Library Association supports library and information science workers in creating responsible and all-inclusive spaces that serve and represent the entire community. Included in this umbrella office is the **Library Services to the Incarcerated and Detained Interest Group** (LSID).

There is a **discussion list** of the American Library Association about providing library services to prisoners: prison-l@lists.ala.org

The American Library Association is providing access to the following **online training manual**:

[The Prison Library as an Agent of Rehabilitative Change](#)

The training manual discusses ways to advocate for the prison library as a program environment that is based on a needs-based library service philosophy grounded in correctional theory. Library-based programs such as consequential thinking, book discussions, writing-as-therapy, humor-as-therapy in the correctional environment, and the respectful treatment of women will be examined. The instructor also shares examples of course materials, curricula, and post-program data analysis.

The **Colorado State Library's Institutional Library Development (ILD) pages** include three microtraining videos designed for correctional library staff:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/prisonlibraries/resources>

They introduce the following key concepts to correctional library staff:

- Teaching Information Literacy in a Correctional Library
- Intellectual Freedom in a Correctional Library
- Library Programming in a Correctional Library

Canada:

National Guide for Institutional Libraries (2012) of the Correctional Service of Canada:

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/lbrr/archives/cn21137-eng.pdf>