

7 Months Inside:

My experience as a prison librarian
so far

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A photograph of a prison facility. In the foreground, there is a chain-link fence topped with several strands of barbed wire. To the left, a brick building is visible. In the background, more of the facility is visible, including another fence line and a red fire hydrant. In the immediate foreground, there are two yellow trash bins. The sky is overcast.

“Why would you want to work *here*?”



SAFETY, RESPECT
AND DIGNITY
FOR ALL

LA SÉCURITÉ,
LA DIGNITÉ
ET LE RESPECT
POUR

“Where are the policies?”

National Guide for Institutional Libraries



“Are you the librarian?”
First 3 months



“What is book club?”

“Do you teach them how to read?”



“Can I donate to the library?”

“Why won’t you take my science magazines?!”

Resources:

Policy:

Ings, Catherine & Joslin, Jennifer. "Correctional Service of Canada Prison Libraries from 1980 to 2010." (2011). *Library Trends*. 59. 386-408.

<https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/bitstream/handle/2142/18741/59.3.ings.pdf?sequence=3>

Lehmann, Vibeke & Locke, Joanne. "Guidelines for library services to prisoners." (2005). *IFLA Professional Reports*, No. 92. <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/publications/professional-report/92.pdf>

"National Guide for Institutional Libraries." (2012). *Correctional Service of Canada*.
<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/lbrr/archives/cn21137-eng.pdf>

"Prison Libraries Network: The Right to Read." (2016). *Canadian Federation of Library Associations*. <http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/guidelines-and-position-papers/prison-libraries-network-the-right-to-read-position-statement/>

Further Reading and Additional Resources:

Krolak, Lisa. (2019). "Books beyond bars: The transformative potential of prison libraries." *UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning*. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000369835>

Greater Edmonton Library Association's Prison Libraries Project Website: <https://gela.ca/contacts-get-involved/>

Book Clubs for Inmates Website: <http://www.bookclubsforinmates.com/>

Correctional Service Canada Volunteer Website: <https://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/volunteers/003008-0005-eng.shtml>