A Survey About General Library Use in CDOC Prisons and How It May Have Benefited You

The purpose of this survey is to learn how you used a general library in a Colorado Department of Corrections prison and how it may have benefited you since release. Please do not respond about law libraries.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary, and there is no penalty or loss of benefits due to choosing not to participate. Your responses are private, anonymous, and confidential. Because this survey is not intended to be an evaluation of any particular prison library or its staff, you are not asked where you were incarcerated. All data analysis will be done in groups, so only researchers will see your individual responses.

At the end of this survey, you will have an opportunity to enter a prize drawing. If you do that, a separate form will ask for your name and contact information, so those details will never be associated with your survey responses.

1. Have you ever been incarcerated by the Colorado Department of Corrections? Mark one.
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No
   - If Yes, year of most recent release _______
   - If Yes, year of most recent entry _______

   *If responding on paper: If No, stop here.*
   *If responding online: If No, exit survey to thank you screen.*

2. If yes to item 1, what type of facility? Mark one.
   - [ ] Men
   - [ ] Women
   - [ ] Youth (male)
   - [ ] Youth (female)
   - [ ] Other—please specify: _________________

   Your Prison Library Use

3. How often did you go to a general prison library? Mark one.
   - [ ] Daily
   - [ ] At least weekly
   - [ ] At least monthly
   - [ ] Less than monthly
   - [ ] Never
   - [ ] Other - please specify: ____________________________

4. How often were books or other library materials delivered to you from a general prison library? Mark one.
   - [ ] Daily
   - [ ] At least weekly
   - [ ] At least monthly
   - [ ] Less than monthly
   - [ ] Never
   - [ ] Other - please specify: ____________________________

5. Did any of these reasons discourage you from using a prison library? Mark all that apply.
   - [ ] Not allowed because of my security level.
   - [ ] Library schedule.
   - [ ] There was nothing there I needed or wanted.
   - [ ] Uncomfortable asking library staff for help.
   - [ ] Pressure from other prisoners to not use it.
   - [ ] Other - please specify: ____________________________

   *If responding on paper: If Never to items 3 and 4, stop here.*
   *If responding online: If Never to items 3 and 4, exit survey to thank you screen.*

This project was made possible in part by
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Services LG-97-18-0127-18.
6. Which of the following types of materials did you use or check out from the library? Mark all that apply.

- Books
- Magazines/newspapers
- Music CDs
- Audio books
- DVDs/videos
- Other—please specify: _____________________________________

7. Did your prison library help you take part in facility programs? Mark all that apply.

- College-credit courses
- GED preparation classes
- Mental health/treatment programs (examples: anger management, substance abuse, etc.)
- Programs on re-entry topics (examples: life skills, parenting, education, employment, housing, social services, etc.)
- Vocational/technical education courses (examples: carpentry, electrical, food services, HVAC, plumbing, welding, etc.)
- Other—please specify: _____________________________________

8. Which of the following library programs and services did you use? Mark all that apply.

- Attended book discussion groups
- Attended game-playing events
- Got help finding books, magazines, newspapers, etc.
- Got books or other items from another library through interlibrary loan
- Got an answer to an information request from a library staff member
- Got help doing my own research
- Got help using equipment
- Got photocopies
- Other—please specify: _____________________________________

9. How much did using a prison library help you personally? Mark one per line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Benefit</th>
<th>Library was</th>
<th>Did not have this experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very helpful</td>
<td>Somewhat helpful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Escaped from a difficult environment or living situation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Occupied my time quietly and safely</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Found other people with common experiences or interests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Learned how to get along with people different from me</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Helped me stay in touch with family and friends</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Helped me stay involved in my children’s lives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Helped me stay connected to the outside world</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Advanced my formal education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Prepared me to find a job or start a business</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Helped me with personal development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Other—please specify:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10. How much did using a prison library help you improve each of these skills? Mark one per line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Learned</th>
<th>Library was</th>
<th>Did not have this experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very helpful</td>
<td>Somewhat helpful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. How to find needed information</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. How to tell what information sources to trust</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. How to write or speak better</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. How to work better with others</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Other—please specify:</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How much did using a prison library help you prepare for life after release in these ways? Mark one per line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Library was</th>
<th>Did not have this experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very helpful</td>
<td>Somewhat helpful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Helped me find a place to live</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Helped me find a job</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Helped me continue treatment for recovery</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Helped me be a better spouse or partner</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Helped me be a better parent</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Helped me be a better family member</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Helped me find re-entry resources</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Helped me keep up with technology</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Other—please specify:</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About You

Your answers to these questions will tell us how well respondents to this survey represent the larger population of people returning to the community after incarceration.

12. How old are you? _______ years

13. Which racial/ethnic group(s) are you a member of: Mark all that apply.

- ☐ African-American/Black
- ☐ American Indian/Native American
- ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino
- ☑ White/Caucasian/European
- ☐ Other—please specify: _________________

Please tell us your library story. What else do you want us to know? [TEXT BOX]

If responding online: To enter a drawing for [incentive prizes], please click the link below. Your survey answers will not be connected to your name and contact information. [PRIZE ENTRY LINK]

If responding on paper: To enter in a drawing for [incentive prizes], give your name and contact information on the accompanying card. Your survey answers will not be connected to your name and contact information.

THANK YOU!
Your responses to this survey will help to document the value and impact of prison libraries. We appreciate your contribution to this important research.