

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 Youth (male)
 Women Youth (female)
 Other—please specify: _____

Your Prison Library Use

3. How often did you go to a general prison library? Mark one.

- Daily Never
 At least weekly Other - please specify:
 At least monthly _____
 Less than monthly

4. How often were books or other library materials delivered to you from a general prison library? Mark one.

- Daily Never
 At least weekly Other - please specify:
 At least monthly _____
 Less than monthly

5. Did any of these reasons discourage you from using a prison library? Mark all that apply.

- Not allowed because of my security level. Pressure from other prisoners to not use it.
 Library schedule. Other - please specify:
 There was nothing there I needed or _____
wanted. I was not discouraged from using the
 Uncomfortable asking library staff for help. library.

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.

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6. Which of the following types of materials did you use or check out from the library? Mark all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magazines/newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> DVDs/videos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music CDs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other—please specify: |
-

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

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

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

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

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

| Personal Benefit | Library was | | | Did not have this experience |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Very helpful | Somewhat helpful | Not helpful | |
| a. Escaped from a difficult environment or living situation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Occupied my time quietly and safely | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Found other people with common experiences or interests | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Learned how to get along with people different from me | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Helped me stay in touch with family and friends | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Helped me stay involved in my children's lives | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Helped me stay connected to the outside world | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Advanced my formal education | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Prepared me to find a job or start a business | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. Helped me with personal development | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| k. Other—please specify: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

10. How much did using a prison library help you improve each of these skills? Mark one per line.

| Skill Learned | Library was | | | Did not have this experience |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Very helpful | Somewhat helpful | Not helpful | |
| a. How to find needed information | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. How to tell what information sources to trust | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. How to write or speak better | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. How to work better with others | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Other—please specify: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

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

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.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African-American/Black | <input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian/European |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Native American | <input type="checkbox"/> Other—please specify: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino | |

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.