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## **Introduction**

This paper is admittedly personal: three parts research and one part old-fashioned soap-boxing intended to inspire more public libraries to consider expanding their services to include the incarcerated. The research includes a literature review, an original survey of California's 181 public library systems in order to outline the current state of public library outreach to incarcerated populations in this state, and descriptions of three American library systems providing innovative public library service to the incarcerated. This research was undertaken as a direct result of my own volunteer work with youth incarcerated at the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar, CA. Meeting teen after teen who expressed a strange mystification at their own new-found interest in reading impressed upon me the possibility that access to books can take on new meaning in correctional institutions. What better way to escape the penitentiary's unique combination of grinding boredom and menace than to lose oneself in a book? But inside, as in the free world, books offer more than an escape. They also offer information, opportunities for self-reflection, exposure to different ways of thinking, and emotional comfort. My experiences have convinced me that the public library, the "people's university," should play a role in the life of the people who, though behind bars and easily ignored, are still a part of the local community.<sup>1</sup>

As a public librarian, there are few things more gratifying than seeing first-hand the effects a well matched book can have on another human being. The gratification is amplified when the book goes to individuals who have long stretches of time to fill and little else to do. As 95% of the incarcerated population will eventually return to their communities (Shirley, 2004, p. 20), the public library that partners with the local prison, jail, or juvenile detention center can create new users from non-users while fulfilling the American Library Association's (n.d.) mission "to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all."

## **The Incarcerated in America**

The United States incarcerates more people than any other developed nation. According to the Bureau of Justice (2010) the total number of adults in corrections facilities in the United States has nearly quadrupled in the past three decades, from 1,842,100 in 1980 to 7,308,200 in 2008. Of that population, 1,518,559 were housed in federal or state prisons, 785,556 were in county or municipal jails and the remainder were on probation or parole (U.S. Department of Justice, 2009). In 2007, 86,814 juveniles, or 263 out of every 100,000

juveniles, were held in a variety of private and public residential placement facilities including camps, juvenile halls, and group homes. In both adult and juvenile populations, detainees were disproportionately Black and Latino. Sentenced state and federal prison populations were 20% Hispanic and 38% Black in 2008. The 2003 national custody rate for most minority youth were considerably higher than the 190 per 100,000 rate for White youth: the rate for Black youth was 750 of 100,000 while 348 of 100,000 Hispanic youth were incarcerated (Snyder & Sickmund, 2006). These numbers add up to a sizable portion of the United States population living behind bars at some point in their lives. The impact of incarceration is even greater when spouses, children, and parents of those in corrections are included.

Both the adult and juvenile incarcerated populations in the United States have lower literacy rates than the general population. The 2003 *National Assessment of Adult Literacy Prison Survey* found that prisoners had “lower prose, document, and quantitative literacy than adults living in households” with only 2 to 3 percent being “proficient” in all categories compared to 14 to 15 percent in the public at large (Greenberg, Dunleavy, & Kutner, 2007, p. 29). The most recent national survey of prisoner education levels, the 2003 Bureau of Justice Statistics special report “Education and Correctional Populations,” found that in 1997, 41% of federal and state prisoners had not completed high school or earned their GED. Project READ, conducted in 1978, is the most recent large sample survey of the reading ability of juveniles in corrections. That study found that although the average juvenile was 15 years old, the average reading level for detainees was fourth grade (Leone, Krezmien, Mason, & Meisel, 2005, p. 95). Drakeford and Krezmien (2004) conducted recent four-state studies of 71 detained juveniles which found that participants had an even lower average reading grade level of 3.47. Public libraries could help to improve this situation by offering materials and literacy services to the incarcerated in their service area.

### **Library Services “Inside”**

One might be tempted to ask, “Why should public libraries get involved? Aren’t there already libraries in these institutions?” The answer is—sort of. Library services in correctional facilities vary due to the range of legal requirements for different types of institutions. Federal and state prisons have generally provided inmates with more significant library collections than other institutions because the legal process for prisoners in federal and state institutions tends to be longer. According to Vogel (2009), the 1970s were the “golden era” of prison library service due to widespread prison reform efforts (p. 10). The landmark 1977 decision *Bounds v. Smith*, held that prison authorities were required to uphold prisoners’ constitutional right of access to the courts by either providing

“adequate law libraries” or “adequate assistance from persons trained in the law” (p. 60). From that time until the mid-1990s, prisons, and to some extent jails, chose to fund well-stocked law libraries in order to meet legal obligations and avoid inmate lawsuits. Library service in prisons became so prevalent that in 1981 the American Correctional Association (ACA) and the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) joint-published the first edition of *Library Standards of Adult Correctional Institutions*. The second edition was published by ASCLA alone in 1992, but since then no further editions have been published. In 1995 the Supreme Court decided *Lewis v. Casey*, which required that inmates prove “actual injury” due to lack of access to the courts and asserted that *Bound v. Smith* did not imply a freestanding right to a law library or legal assistance (Vogel, 2009, p. 64). Prison and jail law libraries as well as the accompanying recreational libraries were heavily impacted by this decision, with many being drastically downsized or dismantled entirely (Vogel, 2009 pp. 65-66).

While adult facilities are encouraged by the law to maintain libraries, juvenile facilities do not have the same requirements. Juvenile correctional facilities range from short-term halls to longer term camps and 1,000+ capacity full-security public institutions to 10-bed private group homes. In most cases, juveniles housed in these facilities are required to attend school until they earn their GED or high school diploma. Juvenile corrections schools are required to provide their students with the same general education curriculum as local schools (Gagnon, Barber, Van Loan, & Leone, 2009, p. 674). Although library standards do exist for juvenile facilities, freestanding libraries with dedicated collections are not the norm. As with adult institutions, the ASCLA has published guides for juvenile facilities, most recently *Library Services for Juvenile Corrections* in 1999.

The American Correctional Association (ACA) is the accrediting body for correctional institutions in the United States. The ACA’s *Performance-Based Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition* (2009) includes standards for library services under the category “Programs and Services.” This standard states, “Juveniles will be provided with access to a library, which contains age-appropriate resources for leisure and educational use ... The facility administrator has available a qualified person who coordinates and supervises library services” (American Correctional Association, 2009, p. 35). Unfortunately, all of the “Programs and Services” standards fall under the “nonmandatory” category; accredited institutions are required to fulfill 90% of the nonmandatory standards (American Correctional Association, 2009, p. xxii.). Institutions can opt to leave out library services in favor of others. In fact, ACA accreditation for institutions is optional. The state of California has only one accredited facility, the Santa Rita Jail in Alameda County (Alameda County Sheriff’s Office, 2010).<sup>2</sup>

County jails and juvenile halls house individuals who will most likely return to the same counties in which they are incarcerated. Libraries and the free members of the communities they serve could themselves benefit from providing assistance such as literacy and life-skills training to inmates in the form of decreased recidivism. Many people are repeatedly incarcerated because they do not have the skills to function in society at large. Currently, overcrowding in detention facilities and high recidivism rates are forcing corrections administrators and local legislators to reevaluate the current state of corrections. Public libraries have a history of public service and literacy expertise which could be useful to corrections administrators looking for programs to reduce recidivism by preparing inmates for life “on the outs.” Public libraries committed to serving the underserved need to make this known to decision-makers—namely corrections administrators, legislators, and the inmates themselves.

### **Literature Review**

It became apparent early in the research process that relatively little has been written recently about public library services to the incarcerated. There are no books devoted entirely to this subject although several books focused on prison libraries do include strong support for the role that public libraries can play. Brenda Vogel’s *The Prison Library Primer: A Program for the Twenty-First Century* (2009) is a practical yet passionate guide to running a library “inside” but also serves as a call to action to the entire library profession to play a more proactive role in serving the incarcerated. Vogel’s book also includes a brief yet thorough history of library services to prisoners, including state and public library outreach. Sheila Clark and Erica MacCreaigh’s *Library Services to the Incarcerated: Applying the Library Model in Correctional Facility Libraries* (2006) also takes a practical approach, focusing mainly on jail librarianship while outlining ways public library philosophies and services can be applied behind bars.

There have been a few short articles published in the past ten years about public library service to the incarcerated. Kathleen de la Peña McCook’s (2004) article “Public Libraries and People in Jail” covers philosophies of service to incarcerated populations and examples of several successful public library outreach programs. More recently, Isaac Gilman (2008) published “Beyond Books: Restorative Librarianship in Juvenile Detention Centers.” Gilman specifically addresses public library collaborations with juvenile detention centers, calling for public libraries to position themselves as allies to facilities that are implementing a restorative justice model. Glennor Shirley, Library Coordinator for the Maryland State Department of Education, Correctional Education Libraries, writes a regular column “Behind the Walls @ Your Library”

for the Office for Literacy and Outreach of American Library Association, chronicling her own professional experiences and occasionally encouraging public librarians to “go to prison.” Two recent books on community outreach include a total of three short articles on public library service to incarcerated populations, all of which were also written by prison library crusader Glennor Shirley (Osborne, 2004; Smallwood, 2010). These articles provide descriptions of successful public library/corrections department partnerships. Similar articles describing implementations and initiatives directed at incarcerated populations also appear from time to time in publications such as *American Libraries* and *Public Libraries*.

The relatively low number of articles and absence of research studies on this subject lead me to consider that most public libraries simply are not providing services or materials to local correctional institutions. This would explain the dearth of information on the subject. In order to satisfy my own curiosity and assist others with future research, I undertook a survey of all of the public library systems in California to determine which are providing outreach to incarcerated populations in this state.

### **Survey of California Public Library Service to the Incarcerated**

In 1980, the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) published its *Survey of Library Services to Local Correctional Facilities*. The ASCLA found that less than 20% of the nation’s jails received services from the local public library. According to de la Peña McCook (2004), there has been a lack of more recent national surveys conducted on this topic. Finding no similar survey for my own home state of California, I decided to fill the gap. The survey of California public library systems asked one simple question: “Does your library provide any services or materials to local prisons, jails, or juvenile detention centers?” This question was posed to each of the 181 public library systems listed in the California State Library’s *California State Library Statistics 200: Year 2007-2008 from Public, Academic, Special and County Law Libraries* via email or telephone.<sup>3</sup> In most instances I spoke to reference librarians at the central or largest library in the system. In some cases I was referred to library directors or literacy coordinators within the institution.

For the purposes of this survey, “service” included donation of materials, interlibrary loan services, visits by library staff, and literacy programs by volunteers operating under the aegis of the library. This research identified two primary levels of service: Level 1 service was any activity in which library staff or volunteers had direct contact with the inmates; Level 2 service was any activity, including Friends of the Library activities. At the time of this writing, 54 public library systems were providing some service to local facilities, with 27

providing “Level 1” service. The majority of the 27 “Level 2” service library systems provide only occasional donations to local institutions culled from Friends of the Library book sales or weeds. The other 126 library systems currently provide no services of any kind. Only one library, El Centro, did not respond to email or phone messages. (For a detailed list of institutions and services, see Appendix.)

It is clear that library service to incarcerated populations is far from common in California. Although some libraries have no correctional institutions within their designated service area, the vast majority do. Ten federal prisons/complexes are located in California while California’s 53 counties contain a total of 158 jail facilities with a rated capacity of nearly 85,000 inmates (Federal Bureau of Prisons). The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation oversees 33 prisons, 37 camps, and 12 community facilities with a total population of 174,282 in 2007 (Corrections Standards Authority, Facilities Standards and Operations Division, 2008). According to the Corrections Standards Authority, 48 of California’s 53 counties contain at least one juvenile detention facility. In 2009, there were a total of 128 county juvenile correctional facilities in California—61 juvenile halls and 67 juvenile camps or ranches (State Commission on Juvenile Justice). In total, California contains 275 public and private juvenile detention facilities including juvenile halls, camps, and group homes (Livesy, Sickmund, & Sladky, 2009).

There are plenty of opportunities for public library systems to serve incarcerated people within their service area. Providing materials and programs such as reading skills tutoring, early literacy training to parents, and résumé workshops would help prepare inmates to re-enter the larger community while potentially increasing the number of people using the library. Studies have repeatedly shown that educational failure contributes to criminal behavior, yet educational programs in prisons, jails, and juvenile detention centers are not well funded (Snyder & Sickmund, 2006, p. 14). Libraries may be able to help make their communities safer places to live by providing incarcerated individuals with resources and training to enable them to succeed in life within the boundaries of the law.

### **Public Libraries Reaching Out**

The American Library Association’s *ALA Policy Manual* (n.d.) addresses the need for public libraries to serve those incarcerated in their local correctional institutions. Section 52.1 “Service to Detention Facilities and Jails” states:

The American Library Association encourages public libraries and systems to extend their services to residents of jails and other detention facilities within their

taxing areas. ALA instructs its Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies in cooperation with the Public Library Association, the American Library Trustee Association, and other interested units to design a plan to assist public libraries in extending their services to local jails and detention facilities.

Despite this, it is far from commonplace for public library systems to provide services behind bars. Budget shortfalls are commonplace in both library and corrections environments, and it is easy to forget about people who are literally out of sight and out of mind. Still, there are several systems which have successfully partnered with correctional agencies to provide services “inside.” Three stellar examples are Multnomah County Library in Oregon, Alameda County Library in California, and Arapahoe Library District in Colorado. These libraries are doing what most think they cannot: providing innovative, quality library services to incarcerated people in their communities.

### *Multnomah County Library, Oregon*

Multnomah County Library (MCL) is the largest library system in Oregon, serving about one-fifth of the state’s population (Multnomah County Library, n.d.). Multnomah Library has developed partnerships with several different government agencies to support services to the juvenile detention center and county jails. Multnomah’s Library Juvenile Justice Outreach Program provides a collection of books and educational videos selected to meet the “cultural, recreational, and educational needs” of youth at the Donald E. Long Detention Center (Multnomah County, 2008). A full-time librarian provides services including readers’ advisory, booktalks, classroom and author visits, and the MCL summer reading program (Angier, 2003, pp. 15-18). The program is designed to improve reading levels and habits of the youth but also reportedly helps them emotionally adjust to life at the center. In the 2007-08 fiscal year, Multnomah library staff had an estimated 1,560 contacts with youth, 65% of whom reported that they went from “hardly ever reading” to “reading three books a week” (Angier, 2003). The survey also showed that 60% said the library was responsible for the change and that 55% have a more positive view of reading.

The Juvenile Justice Outreach Program began as a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal grant in 1999, granted by the Oregon State Library to provide library service to the Multnomah County Juvenile Detention Home (Angier, 2003). The grant project led to a partnership between the Multnomah County Library and the Department of Community Justice (DCJ). The DCJ’s mission is “to enhance community safety and reduce criminal activity by holding youth and adults accountable in a fair and just manner, assisting them to develop skills necessary for success, and effectively using public resources”



(Multnomah County Oregon, Department of Community Justice, n.d.). The DCJ's balanced approach to justice undoubtedly creates an environment more amenable to public library service, a situation that is sadly far from common.

Multnomah County Library also provides ongoing programs and services to county jail inmates, which grew out of LSTA grant projects administered in 2002 and 2003. "Books Without Barriers" is a three-session early childhood education program given by the library's Early Childhood Resources Coordinator (Multnomah County Library, 2009). The program teaches incarcerated parents how to connect with their children through books. Inmates learn about child brain development, how early literacy affects children, that the library has resources to offer inmates and their families, and how to read and select books for their children (Arnold & Colburn, 2006, p. 32). The librarians model reading to the participants using such books as Jon Scieszka's *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* and *Visiting Day* by Jacqueline Woodson, which include prison themes and serve to break the ice. At the end of the third session, parents are taped reading a picture book to their child and a DVD copy is then sent to the child's home (Arnold & Colburn, 2006). "Books Without Barriers" is one result of the library's partnership with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

Recreational reading in the jails is also supported by the Multnomah County Library. Each jail has a collection of books in living units selected by a Library Outreach Specialist designed to meet both the recreational and informational needs of the inmates. "Recreational reading is geared to inmate literacy, language, and reading interests. Informational reading includes recovery, jobs, life skills, domestic violence and other practical subjects" (Multnomah County Library, 2009). The library has created a booklet, *Moving On*, with useful phone numbers and community resource lists which is given to inmates free of charge. Volunteers conduct book discussion groups under the supervision of the library's Jails Coordinator, a position which is funded by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

Multnomah County Library is not only providing services to their local incarcerated populations, they are publicizing them. Information about their jail and juvenile detention outreach programs are clearly displayed on their website, [www.multcolib.org](http://www.multcolib.org). Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice also features MCL's services on their website, at <http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/dcj/jcjcustody.shtml>. Currently, public libraries publicizing such outreach services are few and far between. These efforts should not be hidden from the local community. Libraries should emphasize that helping the incarcerated gain skills to become productive members of society serves to make the entire community a safer place.

*Arapahoe Library District, Colorado*

The Arapahoe Library District (ALD) serves the residents of Arapahoe County in Colorado. Arapahoe Library District's mission is "being the best public library for the communities we serve by providing outstanding and personalized service to everyone seeking access to the world of information and ideas" (Arapahoe Library District, n.d.). The library includes the inmates of the Arapahoe County Detention Facility in its mission by staffing a library in the jail. The Sheriff's Department pays for materials and library equipment as well as the salaries of the staff members who are considered employees of the Arapahoe Library District. The physical library space is dedicated to law materials. In the law library, inmates can access legal materials including legal resources on CD-ROM (Brown & Oakes, 2000, pp. 15-17). Very few American prisons allow inmate access to the Internet, and inmate access to computers is still relatively rare. Arapahoe should be commended for not only providing easy access to legal materials but also for familiarizing inmates with computers and technology that have become a fixture in most workplaces.

Recreational reading services and programs are also provided to inmates. Librarians stock book carts with fiction and nonfiction materials and deliver them to each of the living units once a week. The "Choose Freedom – Read!" program has been in operation at the jail for more than ten years. Librarians from throughout the district present thematic booktalks to inmates on a monthly basis.

Family literacy is also highlighted. "Begin With Books" is a program similar to Multnomah's "Books Without Barriers" program. Both programs teach parents about early literacy skills and how to read to their children. "Begin With Books" goes one step further; participants are able to select a new children's book to send to their child and enclose a note. They can choose to be recorded reading the book on a DVD to be included as well (Arapahoe Library District). Partnerships with local bookstores and the Friends of Arapahoe Library make the book giveaways possible (Brown & Oakes, 2000). By providing new books, the library shows inmates and their families that they are valued. When the children receive books from their parents, it shows that the parent cares, both about their children and reading.

As with Multnomah, the Arapahoe Library District advertises jail outreach services on its website, [www.arapahoelibraries.org](http://www.arapahoelibraries.org). Potential volunteers can find descriptions and contact information about helping the incarcerated. Businesses and individuals looking for causes to support can also find out how to support the library's outreach services.

#### *Alameda County Library, California*

The Alameda County Library (ACL) in California's Bay Area is a large, active library system serving over 4.2 million people (Hofacket, 2006). ACL provides award-winning services to juveniles and adults in local jails and juvenile

detention centers as well as the federal prison in Dublin. The library's work in both county and federal facilities demonstrates that intergovernmental partnerships can be successful.

Library services are provided to two local jails, Santa Rita and Glenn Dyer Jail. According to the Alameda County website, "Alameda County Library provides library service and literacy/life skills instruction to the more than 4,000 men and women held in County jails. Over 75% of the materials circulated each year are donated by members of the community" (Alameda County Library, "Jail," n.d.). The "Reading for Life" jail tutoring program pairs community volunteers with inmate students. All a student has to do to enroll in the "Reading for Life" program is ask a jail employee. Hesitant inmates may be encouraged to participate by deputies who feel they may benefit from literacy services (Alameda County Library, "Reading," n.d.). In the 2005-06 fiscal year, 436 inmates received a total of 16,253 hours of tutoring and two students in the program were finalists in the state's Writer to Writer Award contest (Alameda County Library, 2006).

"Start with a Story" is an innovative program offered at both jails. Alameda County Library's Jail Literacy Coordinator, Lisa Harris, created the program after seeing kids with little to do while waiting hours to see their family members at the jail. On Saturdays and Sundays volunteers set up mini children's libraries in the jail waiting rooms. The volunteers stock booths with books aimed at kids ages 0-16. Children waiting to visit a relative can choose a book to take home, enjoy being read to by a volunteer, or have their own parent read to them (Kazmi, 2007). Family literacy materials are also provided. Harris' groundbreaking program won the 2008 California Counties Innovation Award ("Fresh Starts," 2009). This program takes advantage of the current public library focus on family literacy and adapts it to serve the incarcerated and their families. This program could be adapted by other librarians to serve their local corrections population.

Amy Cheney is another librarian at ACL who is committed to serving youth in contact with corrections. Cheney is the librarian at the Alameda County Library Juvenile Hall branch, a dedicated county library within the walls of the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center. What began as a grant in 1999 grew into a full-fledged library, thanks to partnerships between the county library, Office of Education, and Probation Departments (Cheney, 2009). Called "Write to Read," Cheney's program provides more than four walls and books; literacy services, booktalks, life-skills workshops, and academic support are augmented with numerous author visits per year. Some of the authors who have visited include Terry Macmillan, Dolores Huerta, Terence Howard, Michael Eric Dyson, Erin Gruwell and the Freedom Writers, Victor Martinez, Zlata Filipovic, Zac Unger, Victor Rivers, Cupcake Brown, and Ishmael Beah (Bodart, 2008, p. 35). During

the 2005-06 fiscal year, the “Write to Read” program served 3,835 detained youths and 98% of all books featured in booktalks were checked out (Alameda County Library, 2006).

The power of “Write to Read” lies in Cheney’s understanding of the youth she serves: she finds relevant books and secures well-chosen speakers her teens can relate to. Cheney’s efforts earned her the I Love My Librarian Award in 2008. In 2006, “Write to Read” was given the national Coming Up Taller Award by the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities (2010), an award to “recognize and support outstanding community arts and humanities programs that celebrate the creativity of America’s young people, provide them learning opportunities and chances to contribute to their communities.”

Alameda County Library provides yet another service to the incarcerated through its bookmobile. The Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin is one of the 39 stops on the bookmobile’s route. The need for prison library services from outside has grown in the past two decades as the *Lewis v. Casey* ruling continues to allow prison libraries to maintain only a minimum level of law texts to avoid lawsuits. ACL’s bookmobile provides much-needed recreational materials to inmates with long days and hard nights.

Alameda County Library has gone above and beyond in promoting its library services to the incarcerated. The ACL website, [www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org), provides links to mini-websites for the “Write to Read,” “Reading for Life,” and “Start with a Story” programs. Each page provides detailed information about why the programs are important with research and testimonials, extensive volunteering information, and interactive brochures. Librarians and staff in the Inmate Services Department maintain a blog called “Inside: Librarians Serving Those Serving Time,” which keeps the public informed of the staff’s activities and has had steady contributions dating back to 2006 (Alameda County Library, “Jail”). Volunteers in the “Reading for Life” program can enter their monthly tutoring logs into a form on the website, providing the library with participation statistics while making it easy for volunteers to keep track of their students’ progress. The mini-websites are also used as a vehicle to publicly thank donors, including Target Stores and the Children’s Support League of the East Bay, and to court new ones (Start with a Story, n.d.). Alameda County Library’s efforts have brought the system corporate and community support, accolades, and personal satisfaction for its librarians and volunteers, and given the incarcerated population of the East Bay an opportunity to change their own lives in ways large and small.

### **Outreach to the Incarcerated—The Right Time Is Now**

The ugly truth in both the public library and corrections worlds is that money is always scarce. Incarcerated adults and juveniles are literally out of sight

from the free population, generally unaware of what the library has to offer them, and they have little recourse to ask for help. Public libraries can start small, donating preselected paperback books from Friends of the Library book sales and weeds. Teen librarians can visit their local juvenile detention centers on a monthly basis to give booktalks or simply talk about what the library has for them when they get out. Adult librarians can partner with the local sheriff's office to create manuals to ease the transition back into society. Although county libraries appear to be the logical choice for forming partnerships with other county institutions, large municipal library systems should also contribute, particularly in areas like Los Angeles where there are more than enough detention facilities to go around. At the very least, municipal systems can help by setting up library card sign-up programs upon inmate release. All of these activities are very low cost and can be used to make the local correctional facility aware of the benefits of libraries services. Later on, grants and community partnerships can be used to extend services. Librarians armed with a sense of social justice or an interest in literacy will find working with incarcerated populations immensely fulfilling. There is no perfect time to undertake new projects in "Libraryland," but the right time is now for public library services to the incarcerated to become a more common practice in the field.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> According to Vogel (2009), both federal and state funding for public institutions is based on census statistics which count the incarcerated as part of the community in which they reside (p. 201).

<sup>2</sup> According to the ACA website, the most common reasons an institution seeks accreditation are: "1) to ensure that the operation is in compliance with national standards, 2) to demonstrate to interested parties that the organization is operating at acceptable professional levels and 3) to comply with court orders" ([https://www.aca.org/standards/faq.asp#overview\\_why](https://www.aca.org/standards/faq.asp#overview_why)). Although the relationship between library service and ACA accreditation is outside the scope of this paper, this would be an excellent topic for future research.

<sup>3</sup> Public law libraries were not included in the survey. The role of the public law library, while outside the scope of this paper, would make an excellent topic for further research.

***Appendix: Survey of California Public Library Outreach to the Incarcerated***

**Library Systems Providing “Level 1” Service – 27 Total**

Alameda Co	Provides library services, literacy instruction to local jails and juvenile detention centers. Operates juvenile hall library.
Amador Co	Literacy program volunteers tutor jail inmates.
Burlingame	Teen librarian provides outreach and materials to juvenile detention center.
Contra Costa Co	Operates juvenile hall library. Provides materials and services to other local detention facilities.
Lake Co	Provides literacy services to local jail.
Los Angeles Co	Operates library in Juvenile Hall.
Marin Co	Provides materials and services to juvenile detention center.
Mendocino County	Bookmobile services jail.
Nevada County	Literacy program volunteers tutor jail inmates.
Orange Co	Literacy program volunteers tutor jail inmates.
Plumas Co	Provides literacy, GED, and computer training at jail.
San Benito County Free Library	Provides materials and bookmobile services to jail.
San Bruno	Teen librarians do outreach to juvenile detention center.
San Diego Co	Donate materials, outreach to juvenile detention centers.
San Francisco	Operates branch in juvenile hall.
San Mateo County	Outreach to juvenile halls and women's center. Bookmobile visits minimum security juvenile camp facility.
San Rafael	Literacy program provides service to jail and state prison.
Santa Clara Co	Literacy program provides services and materials to local jails.
Santa Cruz City-Co	Provide outreach and donated materials to jails.
Siskiyou Co	Children's librarian runs book club at juvenile detention center.
Sonoma Co	Provides literacy and ESL services to local jails.
Upland	Children's librarian brings service dog to local detention center.
Ventura Co	Literacy program volunteers provide services.
Vernon	Library staff run book club at local juvenile detention center. Provides materials to juvenile detention center through grants. Provides deposit collection to women's detention center.

Woodland	Provides literacy services and donated materials to jail and juvenile detention center.
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Libraries Systems Providing "Level 2" Service – 27 Total

Alpine Co	Juveniles and adults on probation may do community service as library volunteers.
Calexico	Donates paperbacks to local jail.
Cerritos	Donate weeded periodicals to women's detention center.
Chula Vista	Friends of the Library donate books to jail.
Folsom	Answer information inquiries from "at least five" prisons and jails across the state.
Imperial	Donate books.
Inyo Co	Jail and juvenile hall staff check out materials for inmates.
Kern Co	Friends of the Library donate paperbacks to juvenile hall.
Larkspur	Occasionally donate weeds to women's prison.
Lassen Library District	Book deliveries to prison for a fee paid by the prison.
Lincoln	Friends of the Library occasionally donate materials.
Madera Co	Donates paperbacks and magazines to jail every two weeks.
Mill Valley	Friends of the Library donate books to prison.
Modoc Co	Donates weeded material to local jail.
Monterey Co	Donates books to juvenile detention center.
Napa City Co	Delivers and donates materials to jail.
Paso Robles	Provides interlibrary loan materials to prisons.
Pleasanton	Donates periodicals to prison.
Orange Co	Read OC provides tutoring to jail inmates.
Richmond - City System	Provides information about getting library card.
Riverside	Friends of the Library occasionally donate materials.
San Bernardino Co	Provides interlibrary loan materials to prisons.
San Juan Bautista	Donates weeded material to local jail.
Santa Paula Dist	Donates paperbacks to jail.
Tulare Co	Donates books to "Books for Prisons" program.
Willows	Friends of the Library occasionally donate materials.
Yolo County	Donates materials to local juvenile hall.

### Library Systems Providing No Services or Materials – 128 Total

Alameda Free Library	Imperial County Free Library	Redondo Beach
Alhambra Civic Center Library	Inglewood	Redwood City
Altadena Dist	Irwindale	Riverside Co
Anaheim	Kings Co	Roseville
Arcadia	Livermore	Sacramento
Azusa	Lodi Public Library	Salinas
Banning Dist	Long Beach	San Anselmo
Beaumont Dist	Los Angeles	San Bernardino
Belvedere - Tiburon	Los Gatos	San Diego
Benicia	Mariposa Co	San Jose
Berkley	Menlo Park	San Leandro
Beverly Hills	Merced Co	San Luis Obispo City-Co
Brawley	Mission Viejo	San Marino
Buena Park Dist	Mono Co	Santa Ana
Burbank	Monrovia	Santa Barbara
Butte Co	Monterey	Santa Clara
Calabasas	Monterey Park	Santa Fe Springs
Calaveras Co	Moorpark	Santa Maria
Carlsbad	Moreno Valley	San Mateo
Carmel	Mountain View Public Library	Santa Monica
City of Lompoc Public Library	Murrieta	Sausalito
Coalinga Library District	National City	Shasta Public Libraries
Colton	Newport Beach	Sierra Madre
Colusa Co	Oakland	Signal Hill
Commerce	Oceanside	Solano Co
Corona	Ontario	South Pasadena
Coronado	Orland	South San Francisco
Covina	Oxnard	St. Helena
Daly City	Pacific Grove	Stanislaus Co
Del Norte Co Dist	Palm Springs	Stockton-San Joaquin Co
Dixon Dist	Palmdale	Sunnyvale
Downey	Palo Alto	Sutter Co
El Dorado Co	Palo Verde Valley District	Tehama Co
El Segundo	Palos Verdes Dist	Thousand Oaks
Escondido	Pasadena	Torrance
Fresno Co	Placentia Dist	Trinity Co
Fullerton	Placer Co	Tulare
Glendale	Pomona	Tuolumne Co
Glendora	Porterville	Victorville City Library



Hayward	Rancho Cucamonga	Watsonville
Hemet	Rancho Mirage	Whittier
Humboldt	Redlands	Yorba Linda
Huntington Beach	Redlands	Yuba Co

Library Systems - No Response – 1 Total

El Centro
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