

# **Books Behind Bars:**

## **Is Correctional Librarianship a Job for You?**

*A pathfinder for librarians and library science students interested in exploring library services to the incarcerated as a profession*

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*“The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.”*  
– Fyodor Dostoyevsky

*“Clearly, there are cracks in the walls through which public libraries can reach the underserved incarcerated.”*  
– Sheila Clark and Erica MacCreigh, jail librarians

*“It’s not just about the library. It’s not even just about the books. It’s about the youth who are incarcerated here. It’s about showing them that they can change their lives. . . . I learn daily from these guys. How to serve a multicultural community, or a population not otherwise served. How to bring the library to life for them, how to make sure that they think that the library and books are cool, and that they all get what they want and need to read. They’re delightful and hilarious. They help keep me entertained and connected. I can’t imagine not being here.”*  
–Amy Cheney, librarian, Alameda County (CA) Juvenile Justice Center

This pathfinder examines how libraries and librarians have served incarcerated populations, both historically and in contemporary times, both inside and outside of correctional institutions. The focus is on the intersection of libraries and prisons or jails; it does not include

many resources about the criminal justice system, nor about libraries or librarianship in general.

The primary audience is library professionals and library science students interested in exploring a career in correctional library services. Secondary audiences are criminal justice scholars and professionals, literacy instructors and prison reform activists and organizers.

## INTRODUCTION

According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice, more than 2.3 million people are currently incarcerated in the United States – a 500 percent increase in the last 30 years. In February 2008, the Pew Center for the States reported that one in 100 U.S. adults is serving time in prison or jail. This huge, ever-growing sector of the U.S. population has many diverse information needs, yet it remains chronically underserved by libraries. There is no textbook on correctional librarianship, and few if any library schools offer standard coursework on the subject (though some do occasionally offer special courses or seminars on topics such as ‘serving the underserved.’) Most library directories and encyclopedias do not include correctional libraries, and most corrections directories and encyclopedias do not mention the libraries in these facilities – although the majority of them do have staffed libraries. Most of the scant literature written on the topic of correctional librarianship is by people who either are working with or have worked with incarcerated populations. Indeed, it seems fair to hypothesize that the only people practicing advocacy for prison and jail librarianship are prison and jail librarians.

This pathfinder, then, attempts to fill this gap by compiling a varied sampling of the literature that does exist. Most of these sources can be found in academic libraries, either on shelves or in electronic databases. Some may be available in public libraries, too. The selected sources are classified as follows:

- *General Sources*: A logical place to start exploring the possibilities of this career path.
- *History of Correctional Library Services*: The history of prison libraries mirrors the history of prisons and their role in society, be it moral reform, punishment, or rehabilitation (or a combination of these). A person seeking to better understand this profession should learn its historical context.
- *Correctional Library Programming, Services and Collection Development*: Many of these sources offer anecdotal examples. Those considering a career as a correctional librarian can ask themselves, “Could I see myself doing such work?”
- *Behind-the-Scenes: Profiles of Correctional Librarians*: Similarly, reading about real people doing the work can be insightful and inspiring.
- *Juvenile Populations*: Certainly there is much overlap between the needs of juvenile offenders and the needs of any young adult user group. This section focuses on programs for juvenile offenders that are already in place (or were).
- *Professional Resources*: Those considering a job providing library services to incarcerated people will need to know where these jobs might be, and whom to talk to. This section includes important directories, standards and guides for correctional libraries (for professional development), and sources for support and networking.

There are many factors to consider when contemplating working with incarcerated

populations: one's personality, one's ability to be flexible within a rigid system, the need to compromise some of the ethics librarians often hold dear (for example, there is a list of censored books – those not allowed – in almost every correctional institution), and so on. Hopefully this pathfinder will help current or aspiring librarians answer the question, "Is correctional librarianship a job for me?"

Books – General:

- 1. Clark, Sheila and Erica MacCraigh.** *Library Services to the Incarcerated: Applying the Public Library Model in Correctional Facility Libraries.* Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2008. (Z 675.P8 C55)

Recognizing the lack of attention given by library science scholars to correctional libraries in jails (rather than prison libraries, which get more attention, though still not much), Clark and MacCraigh, a jail librarian and a public librarian who does outreach to inmates, aim to fill the gap with this book. They do it well, using a healthy mix of research, personal experience, and empirical anecdotes from "the inside" to show not only the practical "how-to" aspects of correctional librarianship but also the fun – yes, fun – of the job. The book consists of two parts: the first highlights the human side of the job – the librarians, prisoners, and staff — while the second covers the job's more logistical components. Includes lots more recommended readings, some of which are included elsewhere on this Pathfinder.

- 2. Vogel, Brenda.** *The Prison Library Primer: A Program for the Twenty-First Century.* Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2009. (Z675.P8 V645)

This is a much-needed update to Vogel's previous book *Down for the Count: A Prison Library Handbook* (1995). Vogel is a retired prison librarian from Maryland who knows of what she speaks. (A Maryland Corrections website boasts "The Heart of the Maryland Prison System is the Library.") Comprehensive in its scope, from the history of library outreach to prisoners to how to use space to dealing with isolation, this is an excellent new book — a true "primer" — that should be read by all library professionals or students considering working with incarcerated populations.

Articles – General:

- 3. Dixen, Rebecca and Stephanie Thorson.** "How Libraries Serve People in Prison." *Computers in Libraries* 21, no. 9 (2001): 48-54.

The authors met in library school; Thorson became a circuit-riding librarian with Minnesota's Law Library Service to Prisoners program, which means she visits different prisons on a rotating basis. This is an insider's view of her job – providing library services to those behind bars – and includes insights on due process of law, dress codes and procedures, reference interviews with prisoners (a particularly interesting section), questions inmates ask, and information technologies through prison walls. Thorson encourages other librarians to try jobs like hers.

- 4. Geary, Mike.** "Trends in Prison Library Service." *Bookmobile and Outreach Services* 6, no. 1 (2003): 79-91. **Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb** (accessed November 28, 2009).
- A thorough overview of the history of prison libraries, the types of prison library service

(including outreach services), issues faced by prison librarians, including prisoners' rights and censorship, and taxpayers' reactions to prisoners' rights and benefits. Also brings up important points for an aspiring prison librarian to consider, such as this (from the text): "It is important to keep in mind that prison librarians are part of the organization that locks up the prisoners. They are professionals who serve the institution as well as the inmates. Basic beliefs in intellectual freedom, censorship, and public service may all be compromised."

**5. Greenway, Sandra Annette. "Library Services Behind Bars." *Bookmobile and Outreach Services* 10, no. 2 (2007): 43-64. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 28, 2009).**

This article describes the prison population and its information needs, particularly of those growing segments. A brief history of prison libraries in the United States is followed by the results of a survey of prison librarians. This survey reveals some of the realities of the prison library environment, including both the challenges and rewards. Information on services being provided to local jails and prisons by some public libraries is also provided. Finally, two voices from behind bars briefly describe their thoughts on prison libraries.

**6. Lehmann, Vibeke. "Prison Librarians Needed: A Challenging Career for Those with the Right Professional and Human Skills." *IFLA Journal* 26, no. 2 (2000): 123-8. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 22, 2009).**

Excellent, if a bit dated, overview of many aspects of prison librarianship, including preferred personality traits and coursework suggestions. At the time of publication, the author was Library Services Coordinator at Wisconsin's Department of Corrections.

**7. Mark, Amy E.. "Libraries Without Walls: An Internship at Oshkosh Correctional Institution Library." *Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian* 23, no. 2 (2005): 97-111. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 22, 2009).**

This unique article describes Mark's positive experience as an intern at the Oshkosh Correctional Facility and her insights into how it helped prepare her for her current position. She says, "Although a prison library is not a public, academic, or school institutions, the experience of working in a prison library prepares an intern for virtually any track of the library profession." As far as the creator of this pathfinder can tell, this is the only published description of an internship in a correctional library.

**8. McCook, Kathleen de la Pena. "Public Libraries and People in Jail." *Reference & User Services Quarterly* 44, no. 1 (2004): 26-30. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 22, 2009).**

This is a very good source that provides a brief look at the different philosophies of library service to incarcerated people. The author notes the distinction between prisons and jails (those in the latter typically have shorter sentences and will be released sooner), offers a variety of examples of public library outreach to local jails, and encourages librarians to develop programs that reach out to those in jail and those just out of jail.

**9. "The Prison Library as Viewed by Four Inmates." *Education Libraries* 24, no. 1 (2000): 17-22. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 22, 2009).**

The inmates are incarcerated at Oshkosh (WI) Correctional Institution, which "provides

recreational and educational opportunities that are limited only with respect to prison security.”  
(from abstract)

**10. Reese, Diane. "Behind the Walls." *Colorado Libraries* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2000): 45.  
Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 22, 2009).**

The author is the Regional Librarian at Four Mile Correctional Center in Canon City, CO. This is an opinionated description of her job, including all the non-librarian tasks she must do. It's heavy on judgments of inmates and what she considers “appropriate” reading; however, it does give useful on-the-job insights into what the job can, and often does, entail.

**11. Stearns, Robert M.. "The Prison Library: An Issue for Corrections, or a Correct Solution for Its Issues?." *Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian* 23, no. 1 (2004): 49-80.  
Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 22, 2009).**

The author, a Corrections Librarian at the State Correctional Institution in Chester, PA, examines a large body of research on prisons, prison growth, and prison libraries. His scope is broad, but detailed and useful; he concludes by saying “Libraries are one of many resources that prison officials can no longer afford to ignore.....If librarians in public settings are truly concerned about illegal activity, they should spend less time invading patron privacy and more time working with prison librarians to help create a future for all people that is safe and free.”

Websites – General:

**12. Prison Librarian.**

<http://prisonlibrarian.blogspot.com> (accessed November 22, 2009).

The most visible blog devoted to correctional librarianship, it contains news briefs and website links pertaining to prisons, prison libraries and prison librarians.

**13. Bureau of Justice Statistics.**

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/> (accessed November 30, 2009).

This site collects, analyzes, and publishes information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. Good for those who like to look at numbers.

**14. Pastore, Ann L. and Kathleen Maguire, eds. *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics.*  
<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/index.html> (accessed November 30, 2009).**

Brings together data from more than 200 sources about many aspects of criminal justice in the United States. These data are displayed in over 1,000 tables. The site is updated regularly as new statistics become available. The *Sourcebook* is supported by the U.S. Department of Justice.

**15. The Sentencing Project.**

<http://www.sentencingproject.org> (accessed November 30, 2009).

The Sentencing Project is a national organization working for a fair and effective criminal justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing law and practice, and alternatives to incarceration. The website includes an easy-to-use interactive map which one can use to find and analyze national and state statistics.

## **History of Correctional Library Services**

*NOTE: Several of the general sources listed above also include historical background or context, along with other content.*

- 16. Coyle, William.** *Libraries in Prisons: A Blending of Institutions.* New Directions in Information Management, no. 15. New York: Greenwood Press, 1987. (Z675.P8 C69)  
Although this book is over 20 years old, its description of the development of prison libraries in the United States over nearly two centuries — from the early 1790s to the mid-1980s — makes it worthy of inclusion in this section.

- 17. Sullivan, Larry E..** "Between Empty Covers: Prison Libraries in Historical Perspective." *Wilson Library Bulletin* 64 (1989): 26-8. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 24, 2009).

Because the material presented in this essay is historical in nature, the fact that it is 20 years old is not very relevant – though, of course, the “historical perspective” ends in the 1980s. Sullivan divides the history of incarceration into four parts: origins to the 1820s; 1820s to the beginning of Progressive penology in the 1870s; Progressive and “treatment” penology, from 1879 to the 1960s; and the beginnings of neo-Kantianism from the 1960s to the present. He traces the historical role of prison libraries similarly, noting the transition from moral improvement to rehabilitation to “just desserts.”

## **Correctional Library Programming, Services and Collection Development**

*Included here are articles that describe different models, discuss frequently debated issues (such as the use of technology), and give examples of specific programs in place.*

- 18. Arnold, Renae and Nell Colburn.** "From a Distance." *School Library Journal* 52, no. 9 (2006): 32. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 22, 2009).

A collaboration between Multnomah County Library and the local county sheriff's department in Portland, Oregon, Books Without Barriers is a parent education program that teaches prison inmates how to reach out to their children through shared reading. An inspirational example of how family literacy programs can reach through bars.

- 19. Burek Pierce, Jennifer.** “Service Learning Sustains Hope.” *American Libraries* 37, no. 10 (2006): 45. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 28, 2009).

This is a feature story on the The Jail Library Group, a service learning project at the University of Wisconsin in Madison's School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) that provides 1,000 Dane County Jail inmates with reading materials. The all-volunteer project, which was started by two graduate students in 1991, “offers SLIS students insights into the realities of librarianship: learning to interact with bureaucracy at the jail, managing and rewarding volunteers, and facing intellectual freedom issues in the course of doing collection development.”

- 20. Clark, Sheila and Bobbie Patrick.** “Choose Freedom Read: Book Talks Behind Bars.” *American Libraries* 30, no. 7 (1999): 63-4. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb

(accessed November 22, 2009).

Choose Freedom Read is an innovative program for jail inmates operated by the Arapahoe Library District in Englewood, Colorado. The program involves public librarians giving book talks describing some 20 titles to groups of 10-20 inmate patrons, exposes these patrons to a broad variety of genres and titles, and supplements the jail's book-cart service and law library sessions. The collaborative program benefits not only the inmate patrons but also the jail's librarians and public library readers' advisers. (from abstract)

**21. Cramer, Wendy and Sandy Rieckhoff. "Showtime at Racine Correctional Institution Library." *Interface* 28, no. 4 (2006).**

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/ascla/asclapubs/interface/archives/contentlistingby/volume28a/showtimeatracinecorrectionalinstitutionlibrary/racine.cfm> (accessed Nov. 27, 2009).

Describes the Racine Correctional Institution Library's first-ever Poetry Slam involving prisoners and nationally known poets collaborating for poetry workshops and performance competition. Contact information provided for librarians interested in sponsoring a similar event.

**22. Mantilla, Karla. "Windows to Freedom: Radical Feminism at a Jail Library." *off our backs* 31 (2). 2001. EBSCO Academic Search Premier (accessed November 28, 2009).**

Presents an interview with Claudine O'Leary, jail library volunteer in Chicago, Illinois. Includes an account of the Women's Prison Book Project; the relationship between women prisoners and prison officers; views on patriarchy, racism and capitalism in the lives of women; and socialization of women inside the jail. (from abstract)

**23. Merritt, Jill. "Reading for the Future at Stafford Creek Corrections." *Alki* 25, no. 1**

(March 2009): 9. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 28, 2009).

A short profile of the prison library services offered at Stafford Creek Corrections Center in the state of Washington.

**24. Payne, William and Michael J. Sabath. "Trends in the Use of Information Management Technology in Prison Libraries." *Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian* 26, no. 2 (2007): 1-10.**

This data-heavy report analyzes a survey of 155 adult state prison librarians on their use of automated technology in their libraries; their use of specific technologies like computers, CD-ROMS, etc.; and their future plans for using technology in their libraries. I'm not sure this article would help anyone decide whether or not to enter the field of correctional librarianship, but it's an interesting look at what's sure to remain a hotly debated topic in the field.

**25. Schneider, Julia. "Three Experts Describe 'How to be a Successful Prison Librarian: Preparation for a Foreign Land.'" *Interface* 25, no. 3 (2003).**

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/ascla/asclapubs/interface/archives/contentlistingby/volume25/successprisonlib/howsuccessful.cfm> (accessed November 27, 2009).

Three prison librarians presented tips for being a successful prison librarian, during the "How to Be a Prison Librarian: Preparation for a Foreign Land" program sponsored by the Library Services to Prisoners Forum at the ALA conference in Toronto.

**26. Todaro, Julie. "Reaching Beyond Bars: Women's Storybook Project of Texas." *Texas***

**Library Journal** 83, no. 3 (2007): 128-9. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 22, 2009).

Describes the Women's Storybook Project of Texas, in which volunteers visit female inmates and tape these women reading children's books for their children or grandchildren, then mail completed tapes and copies of the books read to the inmates' children. The author, a librarian, calls on fellow librarians to support this project.

**27. Vogel, Brenda.** "Two Million on the Wrong Side of the Digital Divide." *Interface* 30, no. 1 (2008).

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/ascla/asclapubs/interface/archives/contentlistingby/volume30/digdivide.cfm> (accessed November 27, 2009).

Vogel, a retired prison librarian who frequently writes about prison librarianship, urges fellow librarians to support bringing digital technology to the incarcerated, the majority of whom are alienated from the digital world.

**28. Wilhelmus, David W.** "A New Emphasis for Correctional Facilities' Libraries." *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* 25, no. 2 (1999): 114-20. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 22, 2009).

The prison librarian's role in providing academic materials to prisoners is discussed. The United States Supreme Court decision to greatly reduce correctional facilities' obligation to provide offenders with legal materials could be interpreted as a new and excellent opportunity for prison librarians to begin developing sufficiently stocked academic collections to meet the educational needs of their student inmates. However, there are many obstacles confronting a prison librarian when choosing academic materials and making these academic materials available to prisoners. These obstacles are discussed. (from abstract)

### **Behind-the-Scenes: Profiles of Correctional Librarians**

*Reading about others' occupations and initiatives can be insightful and inspiring.*

**29. "Fresh Starts."** *Library Journal* (1976) 134, no. 5 (2009): 55. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 22, 2009).

Short profile of Lisa Harris, Jail Literacy Coordinator for Alameda County Library in Freemont, California and one of the *Library Journal* Movers & Shakers for 2009. Harris's successful initiatives include Reading for Life, a largely volunteer-driven tutoring program for low-literacy-level inmates, and Start with a Story, which educates children as they wait to see incarcerated loved ones. (from abstract)

**30. "Out-Sorcerer."** *Library Journal* (1976) 134, no. 5 (2009): 61. Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb (accessed November 22, 2009).

A profile of Daniel Marcou, corrections librarian at the Hennepin County Public Library System in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and one of the *Library Journal* Movers & Shakers for 2009. In addition to handling requests for information from the Hennepin County Adult Corrections Facility's more than 600 inmates, he supervises innovative programs like Read to Me, which instructs offenders in family literacy while making books available to their children. (from abstract)

**31. Shirley, Glennor.** "Vignettes from a Prison Librarian." *Interface* 28, no. 1 (2006). <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/ascla/asclapubs/interface/archives/contentlistingby/volume28a/vignettesfromaprisonlibrarian/prisonvignettes.cfm> (accessed November 27, 2009). Short anecdotes from one person's experience working in prison libraries and the impact she's had on the inmates she encountered – both while they were inside and after they were released.

## **Juvenile Populations**

**32. Bodart, J. R.** "It's All About the Kids: Presenting Options and Opening Doors." *Young Adult Library Services* 7, no. 1 (2008), 35-8, 45. **Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb** (accessed December 1, 2009).

An excellent story about the library (and the librarian) at the Alameda County (Calif.) Juvenile Justice Center. One very successful program is the Write to Read program, which brings in local and nationally known authors to speak to and meet the teens the library serves.

**33. Czarnecki, Kelly.** "Dream It Do It: At the Library! Technology Outreach at a Juvenile Detention Center." *Young Adult Library Services* 7, no. 2 (Winter 2009): 22-4, 31. **Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb** (accessed November 30, 2009).

Describes a program for incarcerated males, ages 16-17, called the Dream It Do It Initiative (DIDI), that uses technology to connect them with other teens on "venture projects." Partner organizations include the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (where the author works), and a jail facility, among others.

**34. Guttman, Jane.** "Reading to Freedom." *CSLA Journal* 31, no. 1 (2007): 25-6.

Guttman is a library media teacher for Juvenile Court Schools in San Bernardino County (CA). She argues that literacy and books can and do save the lives of juvenile delinquents, "molding readers and learners instead of criminals."

**35. McLellan, Kathy and Tricia Suellentrop.** "Serving Teens Doing Time." *Voice of Youth Advocates* 30, no. 5 (2007): 403-7. **Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb** (accessed November 30, 2009).

The authors describe two literature programs which they facilitate -- one in a lock-down facility and one as a probation alternative -- for teen offenders. Both programs emanate from a 1997 community process in response to local juvenile justice reform. Two library programs emerged: Read to Succeed, a literature program for teens incarcerated at the Juvenile Detention Center, and Changing Lives Through Literature, an alternative sentencing program.

**36. Parker, Meredith.** "Life as a Library Media Specialist within a Juvenile Detention School." *Library Media Connection* 26, no. 7 (2008): 50-1. **Library Lit & Inf Full Text, WilsonWeb** (accessed November 30, 2009).

A "day in the life" peek at the library media specialist of Norfolk Detention School in Norfolk, Virginia.

## **Professional Resources – Directories**

**37. Directory of State Prison Librarians.** <http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/ce/lib/celibdir.shtml>  
Published by Maryland Correctional Education Libraries (whose motto is “The Heart of the Maryland Prison System is the Library”), this comprehensive national directory lists U.S. correctional librarians by state, as well as state library consultants for institutional library services. It also includes the ALA’s Library Bill of Rights, the ALA’s Resolution on Prisoners Right to Read, and many websites of interest, which of course link to other sites. With a straightforward, user-friendly interface, this directory is an excellent starting point for finding general information or connecting to correctional librarians in one’s geographic region.

**38. American Correctional Association.** *Directory of Adult and Juvenile Correctional Departments, Institutions, Agencies, and Probation and Parole Authorities.* Lanham, MD: American Correctional Association, 2002. (HV9463.D57)

**39. American Correctional Association.** *2009-2010 National Jail and Adult Detention Directory.* [Lanham, Md.]: American Correctional Assoc., 2009. (HV9463.N37)

**40. Evinger, William R.** *Directory of Federal Libraries, Third Edition.* Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1997. (Z731.D527)

Includes section on Bureau of Prisons—Federal Prison System Libraries, with addresses and phone numbers. This is the most recent edition, however, so information may be outdated.

### **Professional Resources – Standards and Guides**

*Although these publications are geared toward those who are already correctional librarians, those who are interested in entering the profession might be interested in reading about the professional library “standards” for prisons, jails, and juvenile correctional facilities.*

**41. Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies.** *Library Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 1992.* Chicago: American Library Association, 1992. (Z675.P8 L527)

Published 17 years ago, this is still the most recent document designed to aid in “planning, implementation, and evaluation of general library services in adult correctional institutions.” The appendices include a summary of responses from a 1990 National Prison Library Survey conducted by the ASCLA.

**42. Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies.** *Library Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities.* Chicago: Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, American Library Association, 1999. (Z675.I6 L52)

Revision of 1975 standards issued by ALA.

**43. Bayley, Linda, Leni Greenfield, and Flynn Nogueira.** *Jail Library Service: A Guide for Librarians and Jail Administrators: Prepared for the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, a Division of the American Library Association.* Chicago: American Library Association, 1981. (Z675.P8 B39)

The ALA has not updated this guide to jail library service since 1981 and no longer distributes it; however, it can still be found in some libraries.

**44. Schexnaydre, Linda and Kaylyn Robbins. *Workshops for Jail Library Service: A Planning Manual; Prepared for the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, a Division of the American Library Association.* Chicago: American Library Association, 1981. (Z675.P8 S34)**

This companion volume to *Jail Library Service* contains thorough information and lots of sample worksheets, flyers, and more concerning how to plan a workshop and how to conduct different types of workshops.

#### **Professional Resources – Support and Networking**

**45. “Library Service to Prisoners Forum.”**

**<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/ascla/asclaurassoc/asclasections/lssps/lspf/lspf.cfm>  
(accessed November 22, 2009).**

Hosted by the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), this forum aims “to raise the consciousness level of people within the library and correctional communities regarding the urgent and particular library and information needs of all prisoners....” From this web page, all ALA members can view the forum and/or join the prison librarian electronic discussion list.