

Ontario Library Association
Superconference 2016

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Why are prison libraries important?

“...the institutional library has a unique role, as a resource for information, education and enrichment, in the successful reintegration of offenders.”

Institutional Libraries (2012)

National Guide for

“For inmates in Canadian correctional institutions, reading and access to information is a rare connection to the outside world.

It is also a basic right.”

Prison Libraries Network, Canadian Library
Association January 2016 DRAFT

Building partnerships and relationships

Relationship building: patrons

Based on community-development
model

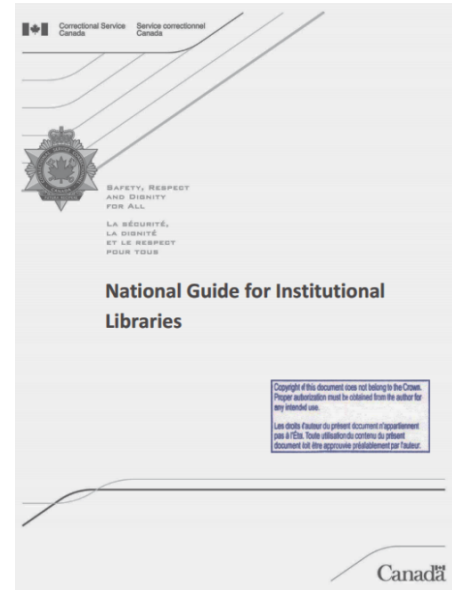
Relationship building: correctional institutions

Communication, communication, communication

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/criminal/corrections>



<http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/institutions/001002-4004-eng.s.html>

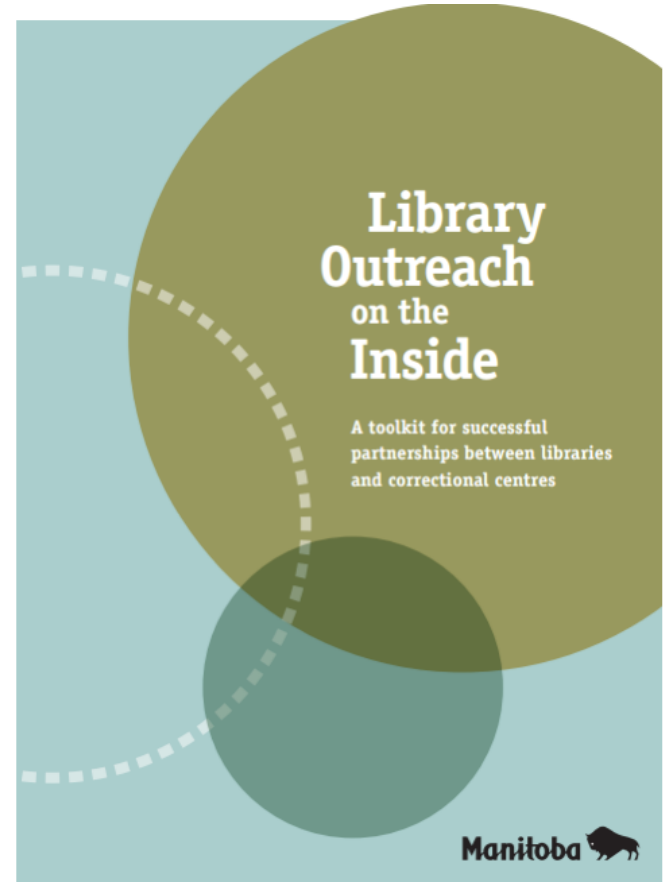


<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/lbrr/archives/cn21137-eng.pdf>

Example: Manitoba

Environmental scan of prison library services
in Manitoba

Library Outreach on the Inside toolkit



Building partnerships and relationships

Relationship building: public libraries

Programming

Space

Support

Relationship building: volunteers

Communication

Organization

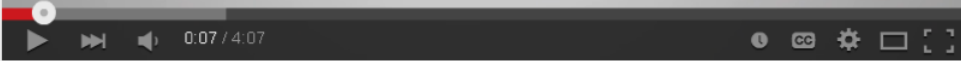
Tasks





EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Community Outreach: Edmonton Institution for Women



EPL and the Edmonton Institution for Women



Edmonton Public Library

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Example: Alberta

book borrowing / reader's advisory

book club kits

donations to collection: Hits to Go

community librarian liaisons

CLs working in tandem with volunteers

Strengths of partnerships: organizations

Expanding our resources and reach

Organizational “brand”

Thinking across mandates

Strengths of partnerships: volunteers

Commitment to vision

Community education message to people inside

Ability to see across organizations

Challenges of partnerships

Speaking across mission statements and situational needs

Continuity of volunteer and paid staff

Sometimes good intentions are paired with unrealistic expectations

Sharing resources

Collection Development Policies

Alberta
Manitoba

Library Outreach on the Inside toolkit

<http://librarytoolshed.ca/content/library-outreach-inside>

National Guide for Institutional Libraries

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/lbrr/archives/cn21137-eng.pdf>

Prisoner's Right to Read statement

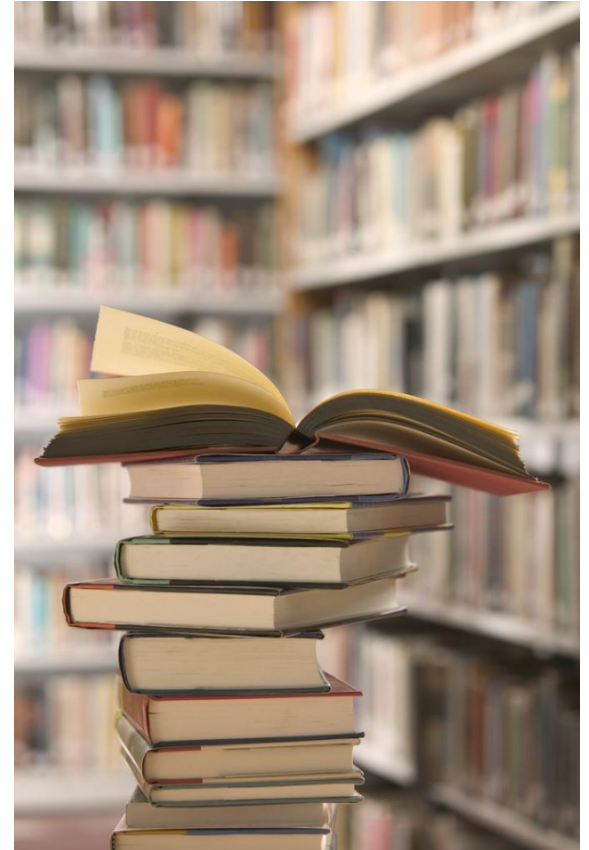
CLA Prison Library Network

Vogel, Brenda. *Prison Library Primer*.

Volunteer Handbook

Working Together Project

<http://www.librariesincommunities.ca/>



Take-away

Keep **big picture** in mind and think **long-term**

Be realistic about expectations of the project, of the prison and of one another

Communicate clearly about those expectations and what projects are on the go (via meetings, email, blog, phone, Google group)

Understand what can be done within **the limits** of time and bureaucracy and other challenges

Collaborate with other groups within and outside the prison

Support each other through accomplishments and obstacles to ward off the “I’m getting frustrated by the slow progress/not getting enough done/contributing enough” blues

Questions?

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<http://gela.ca/gela-prison-project-2/>