THE PRISON LIBRARY: A VITAL LINK TO EDUCATION, REHABILITATION, AND RECREATION

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ABSTRACT

This article has been adapted from a paper presented by the author in Cienfuegos, Cuba, November 1999 at the invitation of UNEAC (Union Nacional de Escritores y Aristas Cubano) and the provincial public library in Cienfuegos.

In cooperation with other prison programs the prison library plays a critical part in the education and rehabilitation of incarcerated persons. The background, roles, services, and ways in which the modern prison library can meet the needs of both inmates and prison staff are examined in depth. International and national standards exist as tools that cover all aspects of prison library operations. The most vital link in the operation of such libraries is having competent, well-trained, enthusiastic, and patient library staff equipped with the special human skills needed to deal with difficult prison patrons.

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REFBACKS

- There are currently no refbacks.

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modern prison library can meet the needs of both inmates and prison staff. Discusses international and national standards as well as the special skills needed by library staff to deal with difficult prison patrons. (Author/LRW). Discusses international and national standards as well as the special skills needed by library staff to deal with difficult prison patrons. (Author/LRW). And using the library argument doesn't wash either – some prison libraries are very good (Holloway, for example), but others are awful. And the time prisoners get to spend there is small, has to be booked and may not take place regularly. Of course, some attempts are and will be made to send drugs in books to prisoners. Of course, any book which finds its way into the prison system must be screened for all banned Guardian words and phrases such as 'bossy' or 'confined to a wheelchair'. I guess the pages could be ripped out, if need be. Or block the words out with typex.

Education is a powerful tool to rehabilitate people. People resort to violence when there perceived self is under attack and they have no other means to restore it. Reply.