**Questions asked to people formerly incarcerated**

1. Why did you use your prison library?

Prompts:

a. For example, did you use the library for personal reasons? To participate in specific program activities?

b. Did someone else—for example another incarcerated person, a staff member, or a family member—encourage you to use the library or did you find it on your own?

2. In what ways did your prison library serve you well?

Prompts:

a. What kept you returning to the library?

b. Materials? Programs? Services? Contact with others? A specific kind of activity or information?

c. What made you feel well-served by your library?

d. What’s your favorite or most memorable experience you had in the library?

3. In what ways did your prison library not serve you as well as you wished?

Prompts:

a. What obstacles or challenges made it difficult for you to use the library as wished?

b. How did those obstacles or challenges limit your library use?

c. How did you cope with those limits?

d. Is there a negative experience you’ve had with the library that you’re willing to share?

4. In what ways, if any, has your prison library experience changed how you feel about yourself and/or others?

Prompts:

a. What book/magazine/other resource have you interacted with that’s changed your mind about something?

b. Have you ever connected with someone because of the library or because of something you’ve learned in the library?

c. Has the opportunity to visit the library changed the way you behave in prison?

5. What could prison libraries do more of, do differently, or do better to serve people while they are incarcerated?

Prompts:

a. What do you wish it could have done, but did not?

b. What do you wish it had been able to do better?

c. What do you wish you were able to experience more often?

6. What should be top priority for improving prison libraries?

Prompts:

What is one thing that would improve how prison libraries serve their users?

7. Overall, how do you feel about your prison library?

Prompts:

a. Are there any other stories about your experiences with your prison library that you’d like to share?