# A Survey About Libraries in CDOC Prisons

The purpose of this survey is to learn how you use a general library while incarcerated in a Colorado Department of Corrections prison and how it may impact you after your release. Please do not respond about law libraries. Please respond based on your most recent experience.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary, and there is no penalty if you choose not to participate. This survey is being conducted by the Colorado State Library. Your responses are private, anonymous, and confidential. All data analysis will be done in groups, so only researchers will see your individual responses. If you are not comfortable answering a particular question, you may skip it.

1. If you use the prison library, how does it help you, if at all?

2. What do you want us to know about your experiences with your prison library?

3. If you are not using the prison library for any reason, please let us know why.

4. On average, how often do you go to a general prison library? Mark one.

□ Daily □ At least weekly □ At least monthly □ Less than monthly □ Never

□ Other – please specify:

5. If you cannot access the physical library space, on average how often are books or other library materials delivered to your cell? Mark one.

□ Daily □ At least weekly □ At least monthly □ Less than monthly □ Never

□ Other – please specify:

6. Which of the following materials do you use or check out from the library? Mark all that apply.

□ Books □ Magazines □ Newspapers □ Music □ Audiobooks DVDs/Videos

□ Launchpads/tablets □ Database articles/information requests □ Puzzles/games

Other – please specify:

7. If you have a visual impairment, have you received any of the following services during your time in prison? Mark all that apply.

* Audiobooks on a cartridge from Colorado Talking Book Library (CTBL)
* Large print books from CTBL
* Large print books from your prison library
* Vision correction (for example: prescription
* Doctor visit related to vision impairment
* I do not have a vision impairment
* Other - please specify:

8. Does your prison library help you take part in any of the following facility programs? Mark all that apply.

□ College-credit courses □ GED preparation classes

□ Mental health/treatment programs

□ Programs on re-entry topics (for example: parenting, life skills, etc.)

□ Vocational/technical education courses (for example: carpentry, HVAC, etc.)

□ Social Science Classes (for example: Thinking for a Change)

□ Other – please specify:

9. Which of the following library programs or services do you use? Mark all that apply.

□ Research on my own □ Photocopies □ Help using equipment/technology

□ Watched a video □ Listened to music □ Book discussion groups

□ Programs held in living unit by library staff □ Attended a resident-led program/group

□ Learned a new skill (for example: how to play an instrument)

□ Reserved a book on hold that was checked out

□ Played Games (video or board games/puzzles)

□ Help with finding library materials (for example: books, magazines, newspapers, etc.)

□ Interlibrary loan (ordering and receiving books from another library)

□ Information requests (questions answered by a library staff member)

□ Other – please specify:

10. How helpful is the library to you personally with the following items? Circle one answer per item.

* Enjoying time away from a difficult environment or living situation

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Occupying my time quietly and safely

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Finding other people with common experiences or interests

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Learning to work well with others

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Staying in touch with family and friends

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Staying involved in my children’s lives

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Staying connected to the outside world

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Advancing my formal education

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Preparing me to find a job

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Starting a business

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Other - please specify:

11. How helpful is using a prison library to you to improve each of these library skills? Circle one answer per skill.

* Finding needed information

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Identifying what information sources to trust

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Learning to write or speak better

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Reading or comprehending what I’m reading better

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Using the online library catalog computer

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Using other technology (for example: tablets, laptops, etc.)

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Other- please specify:

12. How helpful has your prison library been in preparing you to do the following upon release? Circle one answer per item.

* Finding a place to live

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Finding a job

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Continuing treatment for recovery

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Being a better spouse or partner

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Being a better parent

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Being a better family member

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Finding re-entry resources.

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Getting help with learning technology (for example: laptops, tablets, etc.)

*Very helpful*  *Somewhat helpful* *Not helpful*  *Not applicable*

* Other- please specify:

13. How do you think your library use might change or continue after release?

**About You**

Your answers to these questions will tell us how well respondents to this survey represent the larger population of people currently incarcerated.

1. How old are you? Mark one.

* 18-26
* 27-40
* 41-55
* 56-70
* 71-85
* 86 or older

1. Which racial group(s) are you a part of? Mark all that apply.

* African-American/Black
* American Indian/Native American/Alaska Native
* Asian/Pacific Islander
* Hispanic/Latine
* White/Caucasian
* Other- please specify:

Thank you so much for completing this survey.