

San Francisco Public Library

Jail and Reentry Services (JARS)

Rachel Kinnon, Manager (pronouns she/her)

Jeanie Austin, Librarian (pronouns they/them)

Alejandro Gallegos, Community Engagement Manager (pronouns he/him)

PRISON POLICY INITIATIVE

In Jails 731,000

Held in jails for local authorities 615,000

Convicted 150,000

Not Convicted 465,000

Violent 147,000

Property 116,000

Drug 118,000

Public order 81,000

Other Not Convicted 2,000

Violent

Murder 1,000
Manslaughter 1,000
Kidnapping 500
Rape 1,000
Other sexual assault 4,000
Robbery 5,000
Assault 17,000
Other violent 2,000

Property

Burglary 9,000
Arson 500
Car theft 3,000
Fraud 7,000
Larceny/Theft 12,000
Stolen property 3,000
Other property 3,000

Drug

Trafficking 13,000
Possession 20,000
Other Drug 3,000

Public Order

Parole/probation violations 5,000
Weapons 3,000
Other public order 5,000
Obstruction of justice 6,000
Traffic 9,000
Driving while intoxicated 15,000
Drunkness/morals 3,000
Immigration 500

Other Convicted 1,000

Held for ICE 9,000

Held for state prisons 83,000

Held for U.S. Marshals 24,000

Held for other agencies 116,000

Held for federal Bureau of Prisons 800

Program Planning, early 2018

Outreach to New York, Brooklyn, Queens, Alameda, Sacramento, Santa Cruz public libraries

San Francisco Public Library is developing a new program to serve people inside the county jails. We'd like your input about what types of books you're interested in reading. Thank you for helping us create a library program that will best serve people inside the jails.

Please mark all the types of books you are interested in.

- ☐ African American writers
- ☐ Asian writers
- ☐ Gay, lesbian, bisexual issues
- ☐ Gender identity / transgender
- ☐ Health and aging
- ☐ History
- ☐ Latin American writers
- ☐ Legal issues / your rights
- ☐ Life after incarceration
- ☐ Memoir / biography
 - ☐ Artists / writers
 - ☐ Celebrities
 - ☐ Incarcerated people
 - ☐ Political leaders
- ☐ Mysteries
- ☐ Personal finances / Money management
- ☐ Poetry
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Resumes and job interview skills
- ☐ Romance
- ☐ Science fiction / fantasy
- ☐ Self-improvement
- ☐ Spirituality
- ☐ Starting a Business
- ☐ Tests (like the GED, ASVAB, and employment-related tests)
- ☐ True crime
- ☐ Urban fiction

Mark the languages you prefer to read in:

- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ English
- ☐ Russian
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Tagalog
- ☐ Vietnamese
- ☐ Other: _____

Would it be helpful to you to mail a letter to a librarian asking them to research some information for you, and receive a written reply from the librarian in the mail?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Have you visited a public library in San Francisco? If so, which one? (Or what neighborhood was it in?)

How often have you visited a public library in San Francisco? Choose one:

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Once or twice
- ☐ A few times a year
- ☐ As often as possible

Which of these things have you done at a public library? Circle any that you've done.

- ☐ Borrowed books or other materials
- ☐ Used a computer
- ☐ Read newspapers or magazines
- ☐ Attended a program. What kind of program did you attend?

Direct Service

- Weekly service to adults in 3 county jails (1300-1400 people)
- Weekly service to youth Juvenile Justice Center (40-60 people)
- New books, plus redistributed SFPL books
- Languages
- Large print / audiobooks for visually impaired

“I’ve liked the books. From the first day, they’ve helped me read more, and they have books that are at my level. I’ve learned to read better since they have come in with books. I now go to school to help myself because of your books.”

Anon., County Jail #5 patron



Direct Service

“The library presence in this jail is the best program. We look forward to getting good books to read and occupy our time. Reading is very therapeutic and eases the mind when stressing over being away from home. Inmates need the library service inside of the jail! The librarians are fantastic and try to help and accommodate the inmates as much as possible.”

K.N., County Jail #5 patron

“I have been incarcerated here for 6 ½ years. Books are my life, and offer an escape and furtherance of my education. . . . I am so grateful for the Public Library’s jail program. This is an invaluable opportunity for my mind and spirit.”

H.L., County Jail #2 patron

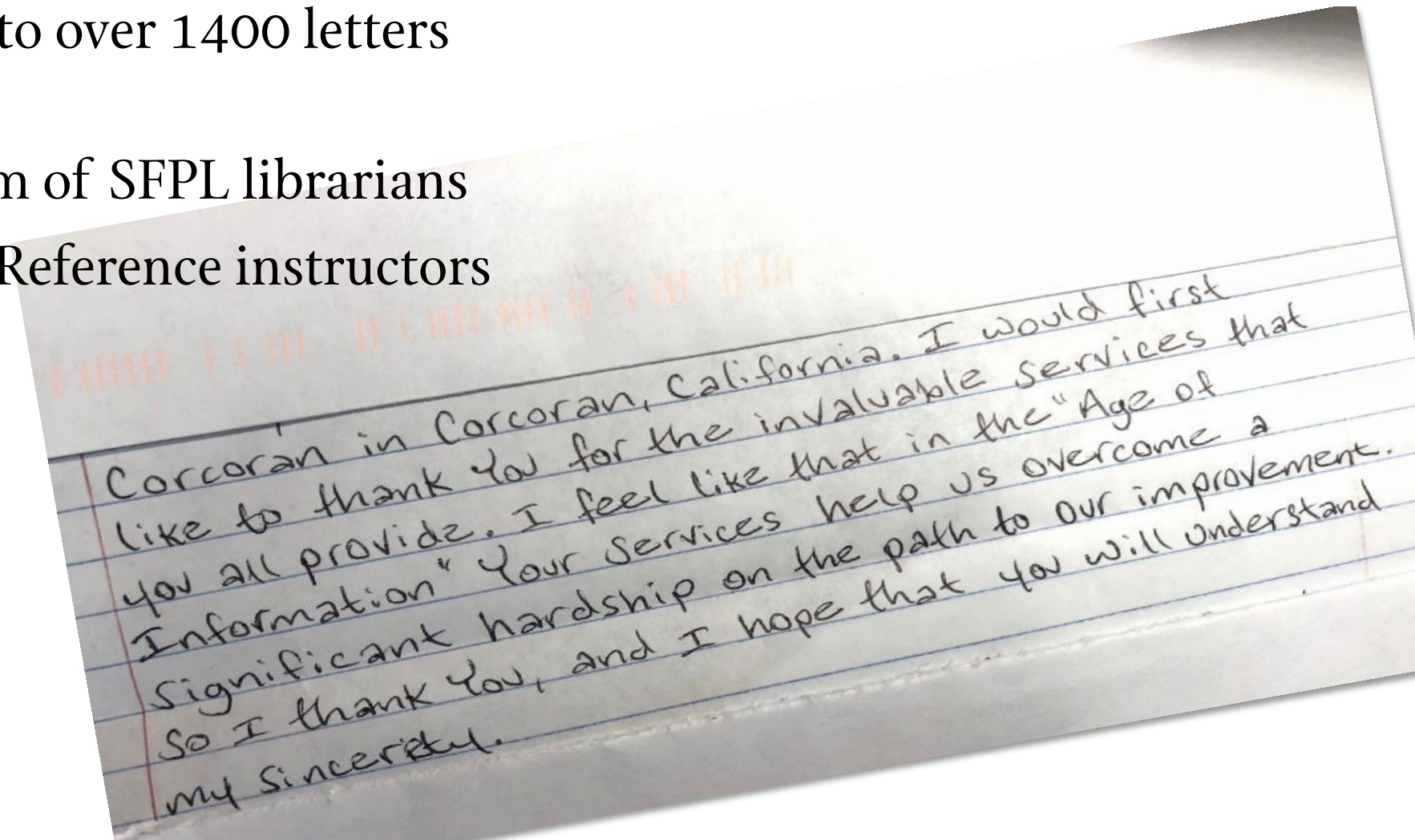


“The library is valuable because everyone isn’t fortunate to have people buy them books. Books help people escape their situation and bond with people.”

M.B., County Jail #4 patron

Reference by Mail

- Modeled on NYPL's 30-year-old service
- In first year, responded to over 1400 letters (50-60/week)
- Support from small team of SFPL librarians
- Partnership with MLIS Reference instructors



Corcoran in Corcoran, California. I would first like to thank you for the invaluable services that you all provide. I feel like that in the "Age of Information" your services help us overcome a significant hardship on the path to our improvement. So I thank you, and I hope that you will understand my sincerity.

“Rachel and Jeanie are truly a godsend. I’ve known Rachel since I was 13. She was my introduction to reading and loving it. Having this Jail and Reentry service is beautiful. It helps us to open our minds in a dark place. It not only helps with books, the help that we get from writing them is fantastic. It’s helped me a lot with info I’ve needed to get out and live a happy, wealthy, and productive life. We thank everyone for this program.”

K.N., County Jail #4 patron

Reentry Support

SFPL Reentry Resource for People Who Experienced In

Main Library
100 Larkin Street (at Grove Street)
(415) 557-4400
sfpl.org

Call your neighborhood library for info on your branch. See the back of this brochure.

All Library programs are free.

In The Bridge at Main

The Bridge at Main is on the 5th floor of the Main Library. It is closed on Sundays.

Job-Seeking Lab

Use our computers to search for jobs and work on:

- online job applications
- your résumé

Mondays, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Computer Drop-In

Learn how to:

- get an email address
- type and use a mouse
- get started with Word, Excel, and other Office programs
- use the Internet

Tuesdays, 1:00–2:30 PM

Digital Device Drop-in

Learn how to:

- use your cell phone, tablet, or other device

Thursdays, 4:00–5:00 PM

Online Learning

We have everything!

- coding
- language-learning
- online high school
- more!

Stop by any time The Bridge is open to visit the TechLab! Get one-on-one help Fridays, 4:00–5:00 PM.

To sign up for a 20-minute session, call (415) 557-4388.

On the 4th

Money Coaching

One-on-one session

- get your credit
- make a budget
- plan for your future

*By appointment only
1st and 3rd Saturdays*

Career Coaching

4th floor – Study room

30-minute sessions at these times:

Tuesdays, 6:00–7:00 PM

Wednesdays, 12:00–1:00 PM

Wednesdays, 6:00–7:00 PM

Thursdays, 11:00–12:00 PM

Sign up at <https://bstf.org>



San Francisco
Public Library
Branch Map



Anza
(415) 355-5717

**Bayview /
Linda Brooks-
Burton**
(415) 355-5757

Bernal Heights
(415) 355-2810

**Chinatown /
Him Mark Lai**
(415) 355-2888

**Eureka Valley /
Harvey Milk
Memorial**
(415) 355-5616

Excelsior
(415) 355-2868

Glen Park
(415) 355-2858

**Golden Gate
Valley**
(415) 355-5666

Ingleside
(415) 355-2898

Main Library
(415) 557-4400

Marina
(415) 355-2823

Merced
(415) 355-2825

Mission
(415) 355-2800

Mission Bay
(415) 355-2838

**Noe Valley /
Sally Brunn**
(415) 355-5707

North Beach
(415) 355-5626

Ocean View
(415) 355-5615

Ortega
(415) 355-5700

Park
(415) 355-5656

Parkside
(415) 355-5770

Portola
(415) 355-5660

Potrero
(415) 355-2822

Presidio
(415) 355-2880

**Richmond /
Sen. Milton
Marks**
(415) 355-5600

Sunset
(415) 355-2808

**Visitation
Valley**
(415) 355-2848

West Portal
(415) 355-2886

**Western
Addition**
(415) 355-5727

Presentations & Professional Connections

- Rachel presented at 2018 California Library Association Annual Conference
- Jeanie presented at 2018 National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color
- Started CLA special interest group
- Shared model for services with Santa Clara and Marin County Libraries
- Continue to connect to other librarians providing similar services

Programs & events

- Author visits in County Jail 2 and JJC
- Public screenings of *Life After Life* and *The Feminist on Cellblock Y* documentaries
- Recovery Summit, June 2018 and June 2019
- August 2019 free trip to Alcatraz for people in reentry
- October 2019 candidate forums at the Main:
Public Defender, District Attorney, and Sheriff
- October 10, 2019, Get Out the Vote Day, based at Visitacion Valley branch

Partnerships

- Prisoner Reentry Network
- Reentry Council
- 5 Keys Charter School
- Community Works West
- Adult Probation
- Code Tenderloin
- SJSU School of Information

“Being in jail can be miserable and hopeless especially if you have no books to read. Getting books from SFPL creates a positive atmosphere and it’s a light of hope! It feels good that somebody from the community cares.”

T.C., County Jail #5

“I’ve been in 6 years. TV has made me stupid! I didn’t know this ’til I met Rachel and Jeanie. They talked about books as if they could be real people that I could learn from, and now I know what they feel about books and the love of learning. The SF librarians and the Public Library have saved my life and many others’. Before, if you didn’t have money and someone from the outside to send books in, you had nothing, only the crazy thoughts in your mind, sad that you’re in jail. I’m happy to say I hardly watch TV now, and I have my kids and family going to the public library. Now I know, books change lives, and save them.”

V.B., County Jail #2 patron