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)
Local jails hold one out of every three incarcerated people

- Violent: 147,000
  - Murder: 17,000
  - Manslaughter: 1,000
  - Robbery: 37,000
  - Assault: 62,000
  - Rape: 3,000
  - Other sexual assault: 14,000
- Property: 116,000
  - Burglary: 56,000
  - Car theft: 8,000
  - Fraud: 20,000
  - Arson: 1,000
  - Larceny/Theft: 20,000
  - Stolen property: 8,000
  - Other property: 4,000
- Drug: 118,000
  - Trafficking: 64,000
  - Possession: 56,000
  - Other Drug: 8,000
- Public order: 81,000
  - Parole/probation violations: 11,000
  - Weapons: 10,000
  - Other public order: 8,000
  - Obstruction of justice: 17,000
  - Traffic: 10,000
  - Driving while intoxicated: 15,000
  - Drunkenness/morals: 7,000
  - Immigration: 3,000
- Other: 2,000
  - Not convicted: 465,000
  - Violent: 500
  - Manslaughter: 1,000
  - Kidnapping: 500
  - Rape: 1,000
  - Other sexual assault: 4,000
  - Robbery: 5,000
  - Assault: 17,000
  - Other violent: 2,000

- In Jails: 731,000
  - Not convicted: 465,000
  - Convicted: 150,000
  - Held for state prisons: 83,000
  - Held for federal Bureau of Prisons: 24,000
  - Held for other agencies: 116,000

- Held in jails for local authorities: 615,000
  - Violent: 32,000
  - Property: 37,000
  - Drug: 35,000
  - Public order: 46,000
  - Other: 2,000

- Public order violations: 5,000
  - Weapons: 3,000
  - Other public order: 5,000
  - Obstruction of justice: 6,000
  - Traffic: 9,000
  - Driving while intoxicated: 13,000
  - Drunkenness/morals: 3,000
  - Immigration: 500

- Other convicted: 1,000
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 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 thank you, and I hope that you will understand my sincerest.
“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

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 resume
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 - 6:00 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 20-minute session, call (415) 557-4383.
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