

Correctional libraries face unique challenges that other libraries may not, but they still strive to promote a life-long love of learning and reading. The Wisconsin Council on Library and Network Development (COLAND), in partnership with the Department of Corrections and the Department of Public Instruction, has created a special sub-committee to assist correctional libraries.

COLAND collaborated with the Wisconsin Council on Churches and Wisconsin academic, public, and school libraries to provide donations of books to enrich the collections in the prison libraries. Due to an overwhelming response, we are not soliciting additional donations at this time. The Department of Corrections Library Services and Education Technology Coordinator is processing and distributing the many materials that have been received.

Tom Maloney, DOC Library Services and Education Technology Coordinator says, "The Wisconsin Prison Literacy Project is a very valuable program, which must be revived. It must also be improved in order to be effective. There is no budget line item for book purchases, so I am both entirely reliant upon, and extremely grateful for quality donations. Offenders must have good, enjoyable, instructive and edifying materials to read. It is also critically important that the collection guidelines be adhered to. This has not always been the case, and complicates the mission of the program. Quality and currency are critical when it comes to donated materials."

We thank all the churches and libraries for their donations. When the backlog has been distributed, we will solicit new donations with new guidelines for appropriate materials.