Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People

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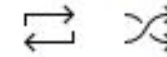
Mellon Grants Snapshot

$2,000,000 for two-year period (January 2022-December 2023)

$375,000 additional award to continue grant work through December 2024

Sub-grantee:

- American Library Association (ALA)

San Francisco Public Library - 1 / 27

Training: Public Library Services for Incarcerated...
San Francisco Public Library
1:02:38

Training: Prison Library Services to Incarcerated...
San Francisco Public Library
56:28

Training: Reentry Services for People Who Recently...
San Francisco Public Library
1:05:24

Training: Beginning Library

Achievements

- Created publicly searchable GIS map of available library services for incarcerated people

- Held convenings of librarians in 2022 (approximately 55) and 2023 (approximately 90)

- Implemented year-long virtual training series on library services and incarceration

- Released white paper on technology, digital literacy, and incarceration

- Promoted grant work through conference presentations and lectures

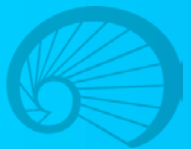Revised existing ALA Standards for library services to people who are incarcerated (ALA-based)

- Standards will be published and distributed to librarians in 2024 (not updated since 1992)

Continuing Efforts

- Coordinating 2024 convening of librarians (estimate attendance: 150)
- Ongoing research on existing library services for people who are incarcerated
- Updating publicly searchable GIS map of available library services for incarcerated people
- Promoting year-long virtual training series on library services and incarceration
- Sustaining advisory committee composed of people impacted by incarceration to identify service needs

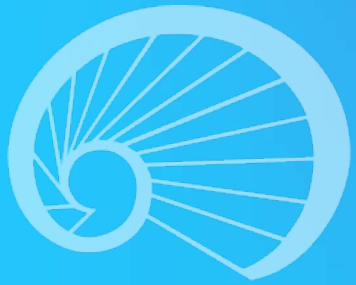- Developing digital library programming focused on reentry (ALA-based)

Impact of Project

- Increase services for local library patrons impacted by incarceration (including after sentencing and in the process of reentry)

- Strengthen connections between local and national grassroots support networks

- Improve library and information access for incarcerated people nationwide

- Provide nationwide support and training for librarians providing or hoping to provide this work

- Create data-driven reports that identify models that work

Thank you!