

Library Materials for Correctional Facilities

Catherine Delneo, State Librarian & Commissioner
Vermont Department of Libraries

Title 22 : Libraries, History, and Information Technology

Chapter 013 : Department of Libraries

Subchapter 001 : GENERAL PROVISIONS

(Cite as: 22 V.S.A. § 605)

§ 605. Duties and functions of the Department of Libraries

The duties and functions of the Department of Libraries shall be to provide, administer, and maintain:

(6) All libraries in State correctional institutions and all State institutions for the treatment of persons with a mental condition or psychiatric disability and persons with an intellectual disability.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/22/013/00605>

Statutory Obligation

The Vermont Department of Libraries is charged with providing libraries in State-run institutions, including correctional and psychiatric facilities.

22 V.S.A. § 605 (6) All libraries in State correctional institutions and all State institutions for the treatment of persons with a mental condition or psychiatric disability and persons with an intellectual disability.

Services to Underrepresented Populations - Institutions				Fund 10000	Fund 22005		
	Description	FY2026 Cost	FY2027 Cost	(General)	(IMLS)	Other	
Correctional Facility Collections	Print materials, correctional facilities	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	-
Psychiatric Facility Collections	Print materials, psychiatric facilities	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ -	\$ -	-
Program Total		\$ 22,600.00	\$ 22,600.00	\$ 22,600.00	\$ -	\$ -	-

Ongoing Budget for Correctional Facility Collections

The Department is committed to providing library materials to state-run correctional facilities and includes funding for books for correctional facility libraries are included in its annual budget.

2024: \$40,000 budget, roughly 420 books purchased for each facility.

2025: \$20,000 budget, roughly 210 books purchased for each facility.

2026: \$20,000 budget, ordering in progress.

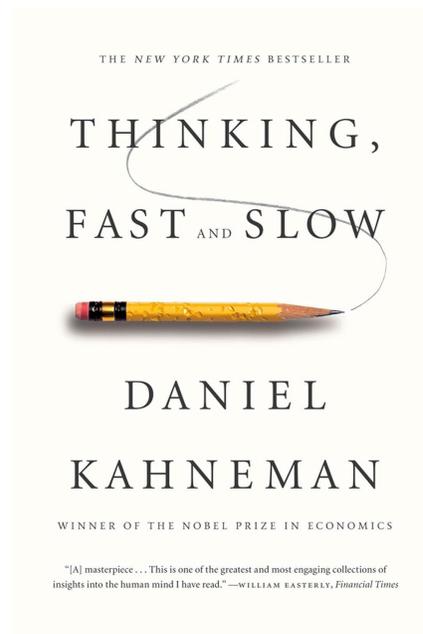
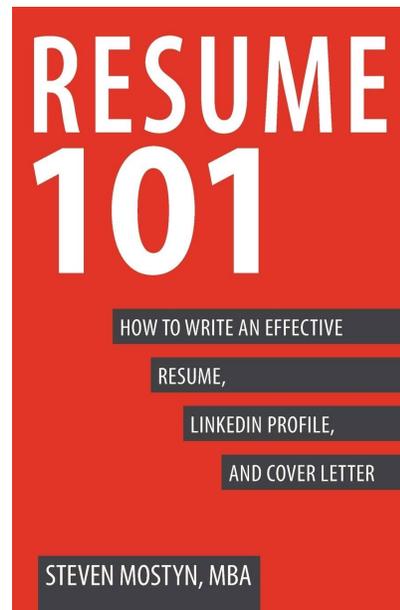
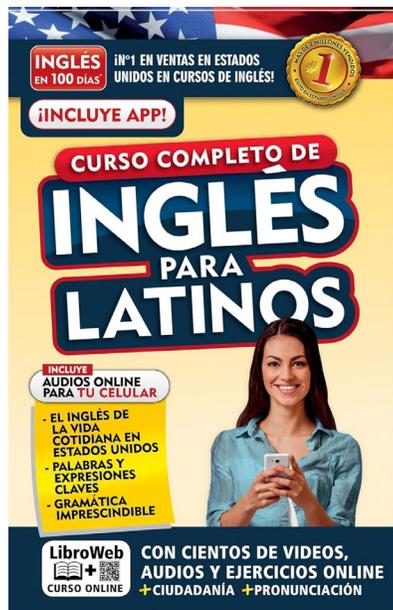
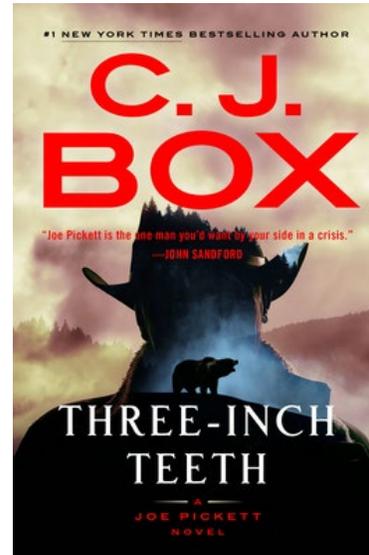
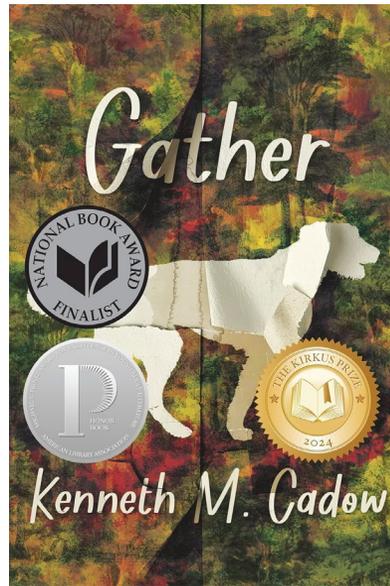
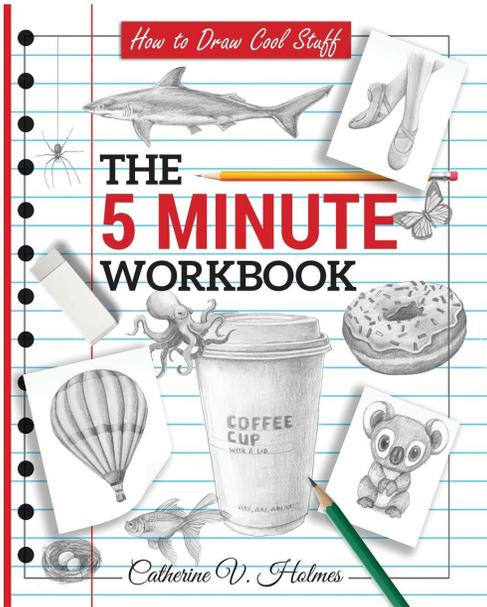
The Governor's FY2027 budget includes \$20,000 in general funds for the Department to maintain the correctional facility library collections.



Funding Boost: American Rescue Plan Act

The Department leveraged \$42,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to refresh the library collections at each of the correctional facilities.

The Department selected materials in FY2022 and delivered roughly 700 books to each correctional facility in the Summer of 2022 (FY2023).



Material Selection Process

Department of Libraries staff select books based on:

- Feedback from Corrections staff about popular authors, titles, and subjects, incarcerated individuals' information needs, and topics missing from the current collections.
- Purchases of other states to meet the needs of incarcerated individuals.
- Accessibility of materials, with an increased focus on large print materials and non-English materials.



Collection Parameters

- Only paperback materials
- Materials comply with APA Rule, Inmate Access to Information.

Facility	Library Space
Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility, So. Burlington	Dedicated library space called The Book Nook in the education room of this single-building facility.
Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility, Rutland	Dedicated library space with capacity for more than 1,000 books in the education building.
Northeast Correctional Complex, St. Johnsbury	Dedicated library spaces in both Building 1 and Building 2.
Northern State Correctional Facility, Newport	Dedicated library space, co-located with the gym, education, and risk intervention services in a separate building.
Northwest State Correctional Facility, St. Albans	Dedicated room for the library in the education building.
Southern State Correctional Facility, Springfield	Selection of books are made available for browsing in the coffee shop. Designated storage space for books.

Correctional Facility Library Spaces

- Facilities handle access to library space and materials locally.
- Correctional facility library spaces vary widely across the state.
- Some library spaces are always open for browsing, others limit use of the library to specific hours.
- Reserved materials may be delivered to individuals upon request.
- Some library spaces are staffed by incarcerated individuals.

Future Plans

The Department is exploring ways to

- Provide eBooks and eAudiobooks for free use on existing tablets,
- Consult on planning for library spaces in existing or new facilities, and
- Explore partnerships and opportunities to increase access to books and literacy.