To Connect and To Serve: Building Community with Law Enforcement at the County Library
Who We Are

Trish Hull

Vern Waters

Jennifer Fay
Why This Matters
Community Engagement
What Law Enforcement Offers

- Critical services and support
- Education for staff and public
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Information—what is going on in the community?
- Library advocates
What Libraries Offer

• Opportunities to build positive relationships with the community through programs and activities
• Differing perspective and view on community
• Partnerships for grants and support for funding
• Research skills and organization
• Safe/neutral space and forum for discussion
• Access to the community
How Do We Connect?

• Get to know your local precinct
• Participate in task forces and groups
• Reach out in times of crisis
• Create and partner on programs
  • Safety
  • Informational
  • Community involvement
  • Police resources
Library Programs

• Pokémon Walk
• Harry Potter Walk
• Santa Stroll
• Youth/Peer Court
• iCHAMPS
• Hank Johnson
• Magna United
• Gun lock and safety
Jail Library Services

Typical 2 person cells at Metro

Dorm style cells at Oxbow
Why a Jail or Prison Library?

• Prisoners and inmates are your neighbors
• Their only asset is time
• Libraries provide a chance to educate, entertain, and explore…even a form of mental escape
• Needs served include knowledge, information, education, entertainment, and consolation
• Libraries support spirituality, self-improvement, and legal resources
How Did We Do It?

• Started with donations
• Found an ally in the Sheriff’s Office
• Identified a small space to house the collection
• Actual library incorporated into design of new jail
• Salt Lake County now operates two libraries in two jail facilities
Some History

Salt Lake County Library began partnership in 1995

• Books transported to prisoners in their housing units
• All prisoners were given equal access to books
• Number of books checked out were limited to 4 per person (now 6)
• Paperbacks only
• Books examined for contraband before re-check out
• Prisoner workers assist “thumbing,” gluing, repairing, taping, sorting, shelving, and emptying book drops
Sacred gatekeepers to all human knowledge and information...

Library doors are a gateway to anywhere.
What Don’t Prisoners Read?

- Martial Arts
- Weapon and Bomb Construction
- Lock-Smithing
- Computer Hacking
- Tattooing
- Drug Manufacturing
- Graffiti
What Do Prisoners Read?
Guessing Time:
What is the most popular book in the Salt Lake County Jail?
Robert McCammon: Swan Song
Guessing Time 2: What is the most popular magazine in the Salt Lake County Jail?
And it is not the ladies reading it, for the most part…
Juvenile Justice Services

- Donate materials
- Weed their library collections
- Facilitate book discussions in their housing units
- Offer assistance with murals and art projects
- Provide author visits via Skype
Could I please get a list for Jack Capple.

and I may

Simply be a single drop of rain.
Best Practices

• They may have no idea who we are or what we do, and vice versa!
• Don’t assume we are on the same wavelength
• Be sympathetic and flexible
• Be aware you may be going in to a charged situation
• Keep politics out of the relationship
Questions?
Contact Us

Jennifer Fay
JFay@slcolibrary.org

Trish Hull
THull@slcolibrary.org

Vern Waters
VWaters@slcolibrary.org