

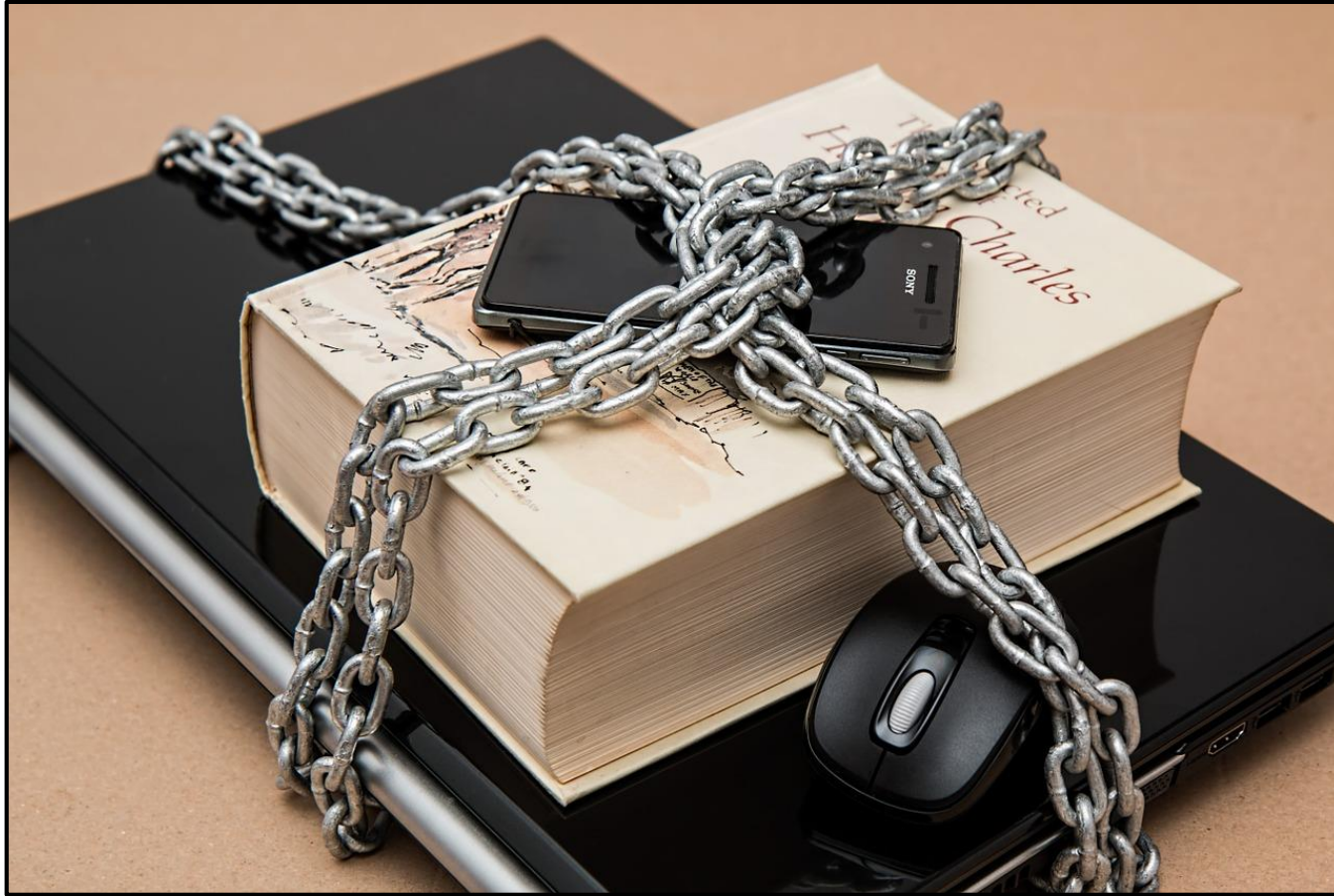
Reaching Beyond the Walls

Building Community with
Incarcerated Students through
Research Support

Jen Fiero, Stephanie Davis, & Melissa Bilbro

Jackson College

Access to Information in Prisons



RESTRICTED

Two Very Different Environments

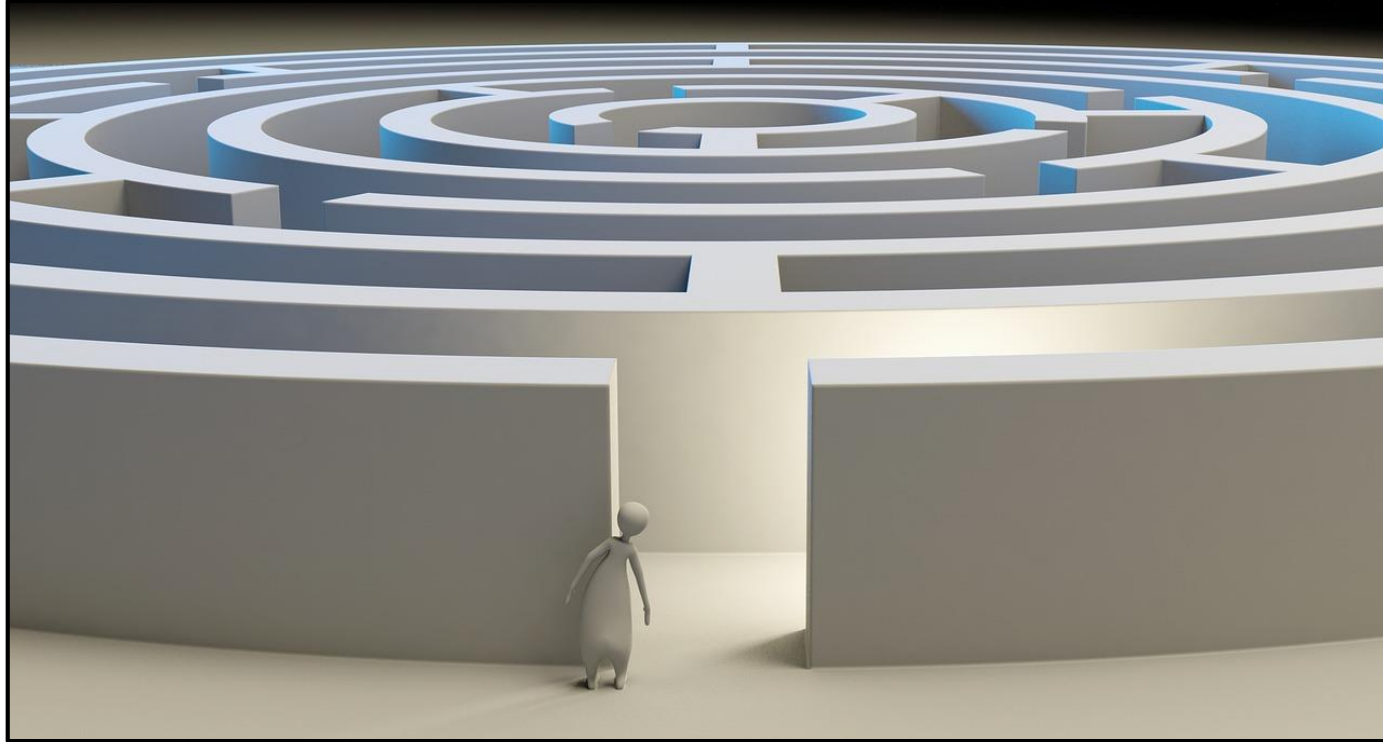
Libraries



Prisons



Academic Resources for Students in Prison



Finding a way

Prison Education Initiative @ JC

- Fall 2012: 18 students
- Spring 2017: over 600 students
 - 1300+ students through Second Chance Pell
- Classes offered at 10 facilities statewide (9 MDOC, 1 federal)
- Over 30 distinct courses offered
 - Degrees offered: Associate of Arts, Associate of General Studies, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Business
- 30 graduates with Associate's degrees; over 100 completing Michigan Transfer Agreement

Research Request Process

RESEARCH REQUEST FORM

ATKINSON LIBRARY ASSISTS JACKSON COLLEGE STUDENTS IN PRISON WITH THEIR CLASS ASSIGNMENTS BY PROVIDING RELEVANT INFORMATION FROM THE LIBRARY'S COLLECTION OF ACADEMIC MATERIALS.

ALL RESEARCH IS CONDUCTED BY JACKSON COLLEGE LIBRARIANS. PLEASE CAREFULLY FILL OUT THIS FORM TO ASSIST THE LIBRARIANS IN CONDUCTING RELEVANT RESEARCH FOR YOUR SPECIFIC TOPIC.

THE MORE INFORMATION THAT YOU PROVIDE, THE MORE LIKELY YOUR RESULTS WILL BE RELEVANT.

YOUR NAME:

INSTRUCTORS NAME:

CLASS:

DATE:

TELL US ABOUT YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

TELL US ABOUT YOUR TOPIC:

LIBRARIAN NOTES:

5 KEYWORDS OR FOCUS POINTS:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Usage Statistics

Winter 2016 – 138

Summer 2016 (usually fewer classes) – 115

Fall 2016 – 160

Winter 2017 – 288

From Winter 2017:

English – 135

Business – 62

Biology – 38

Computer/Information Studies – 23

Art – 14

Communications – 12

Humanities – 4

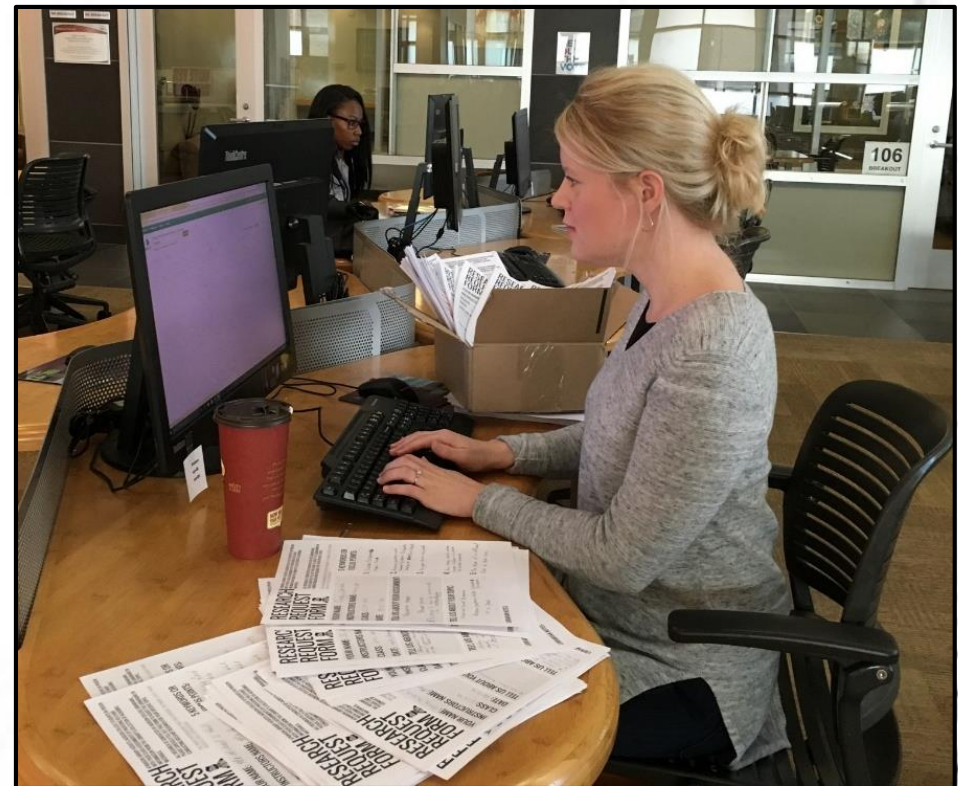
Challenges

- No reference interview
- No demonstration of research process
- Lack of adequate staff time
- Tight turn-around
- MDOC restrictions
- Difficult topics



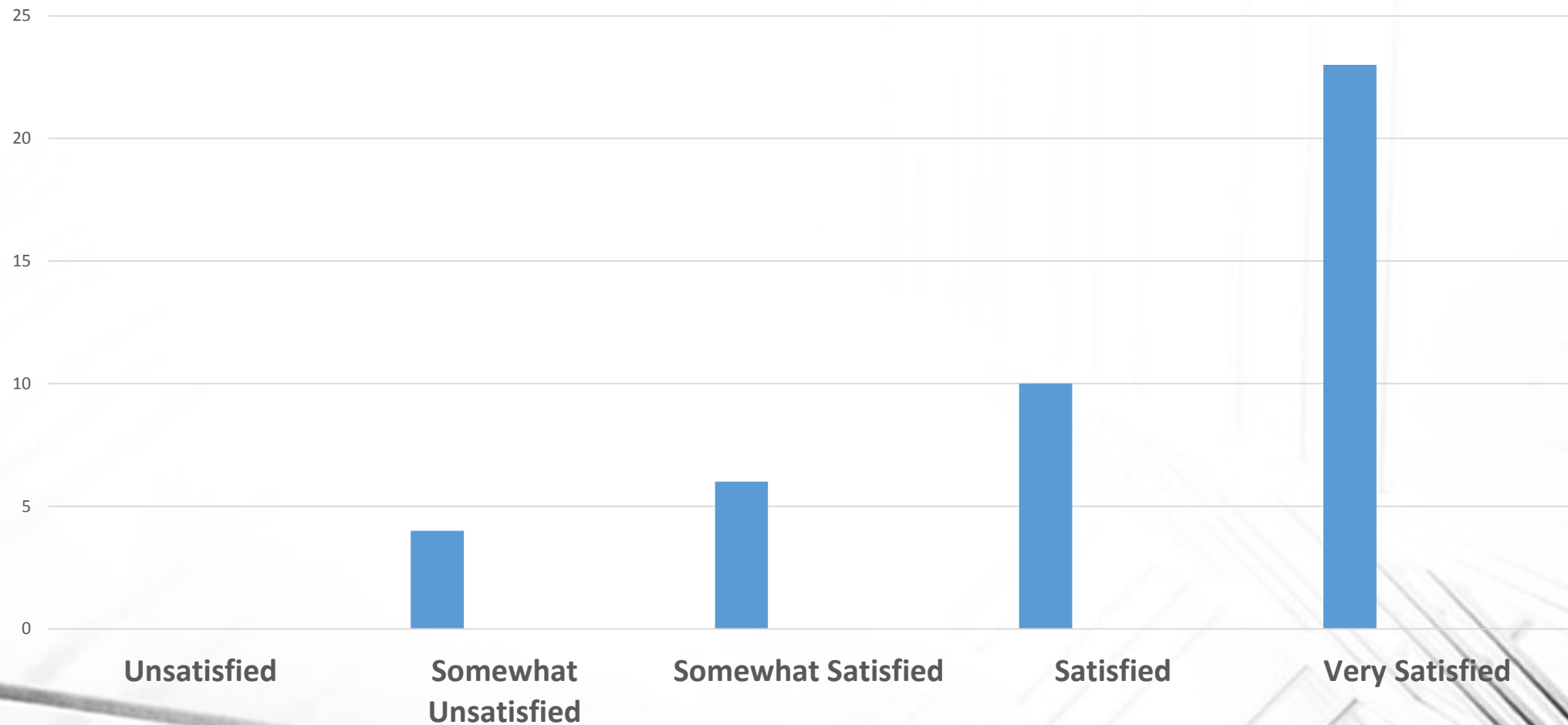
Benefits

- **Students have access to information!**
- Professors have more assignment options
- Good experience for librarians



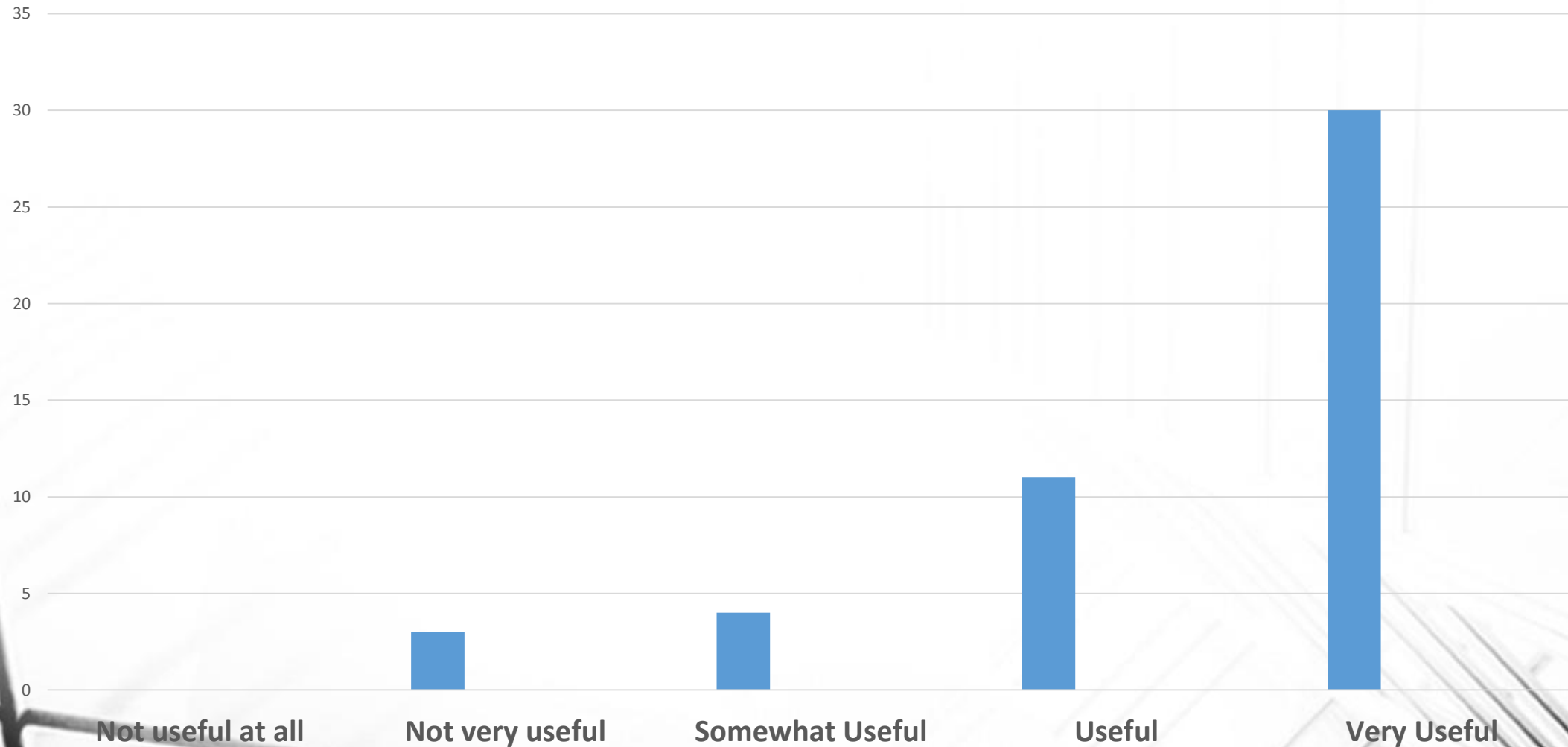
Survey Results

How satisfied are you with the overall research support from the library?



Survey Results

How useful were the provided articles for your assignment?



Comments

“The materials that were provided were invaluable. They were thorough in their content, and exactly what I need to complete my assignments.”

“It was very helpful. I’ve learned so much about the black hole, I believe I can be a scientist.”

“There was such an array of useful facts and other information. I learned more than I expected and was very pleased. Thank you for all your help!”

Comments

“All the research they provided was extremely helpful in my ability to write a thorough, well-informed paper. The librarians do a great job.”

“Without the librarians this could not be possible...Thank you!”

Creating Community

- “Feel like real college students”
- Exposure to libraries & library services
- “It just makes me feel good knowing people helped us through this, when they really don’t have to.”



Connection to Community

- Big Read with Albion College



Future Plans for Connection

- Delivery of materials
- Information literacy guide
- Internet-in-a-box
 - WiderNet
 - Library of Michigan grant



Resources

- Jackson College Prison Education Initiative, www.jccmi.edu/pei
- Jackson College Atkinson Library, www.jccmi.edu/library
- Michigan Department of Corrections, www.michigan.gov/corrections
- Vera Institute of Justice, www.vera.org
- WiderNet, www.widernet.org

Contact Us

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