



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

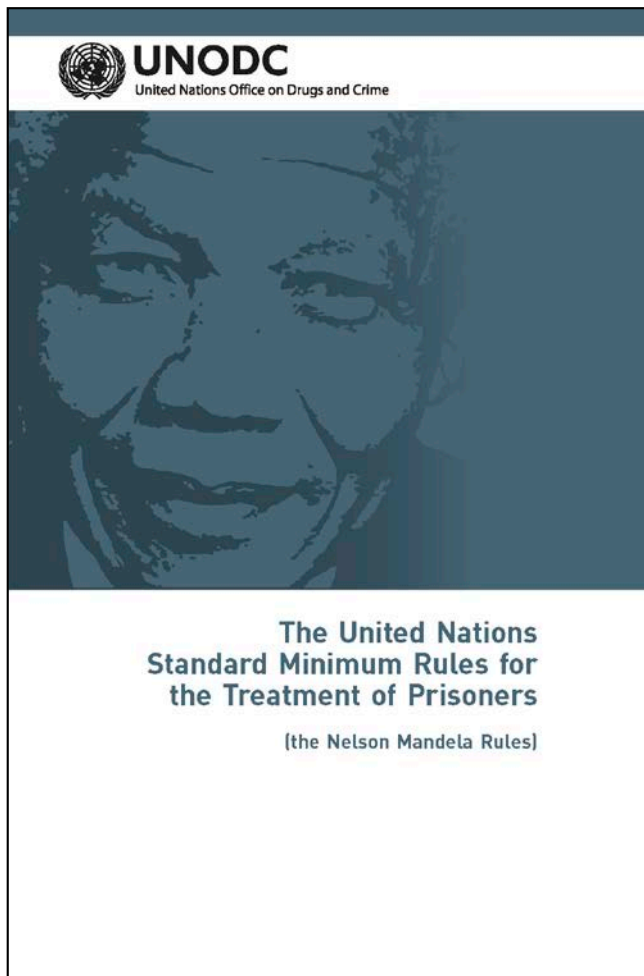


UNESCO Institute
for Lifelong Learning

The role of prison libraries

Lisa Krolak, Chief Librarian





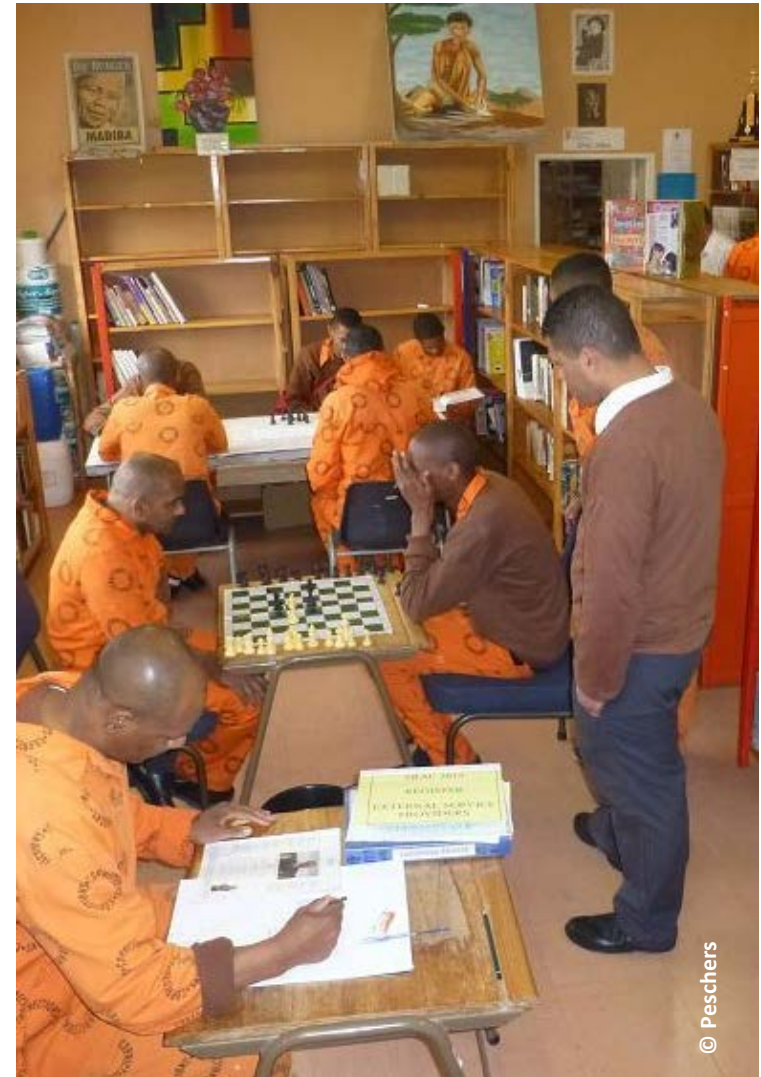
The Nelson Mandela Rules

Rule 64

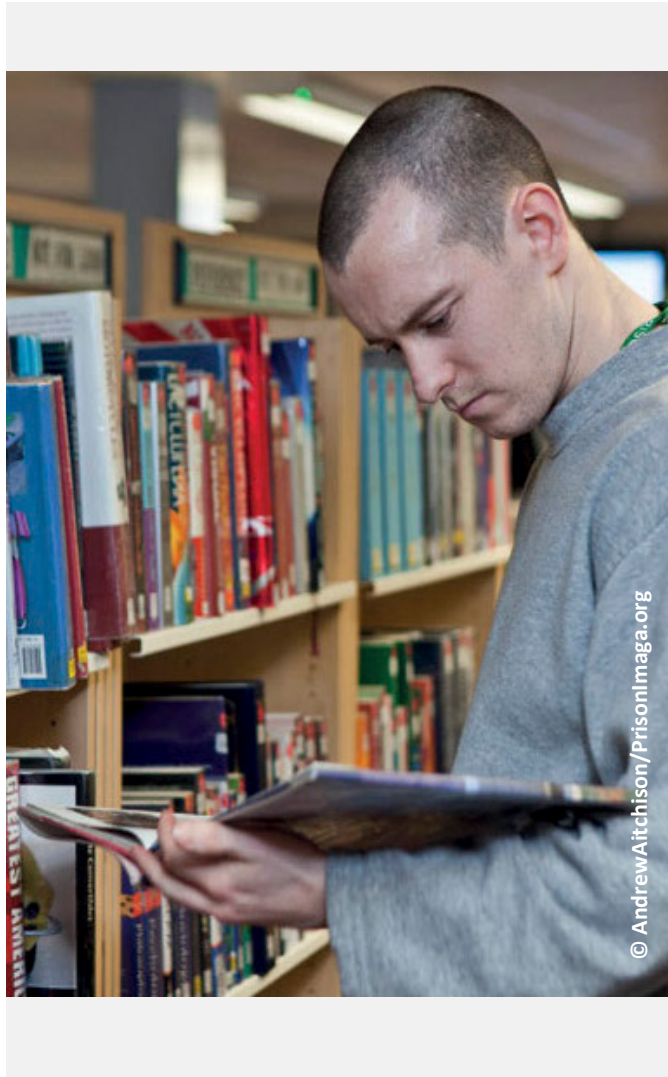
« Every prisoner shall have a library for the use of all categories of prisoners, adequately stocked with both recreational and instructional books, and prisoners shall be encouraged to make full use of it. »

Prison libraries are safe and friendly social meeting and learning spaces supporting:

- Education and lifelong learning
- Access to information
- Borrowing materials
- Recreation and distraction
- Cultural activities
- Spiritual development



The benefits of prison libraries



- **Access to learning opportunities**
- **Offering materials in different languages and literacy levels**
- **Supporting social cohesion**
- **Offering literacy activities and reading promotion**
- **Promoting autonomy**
- **Providing legal information**
- **Minimizing the negative impact incarceration can have on families**

Role of prison libraries during COVID-19

- Increased importance
- Limited or alternative services
- Technological developments



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Providing professional library services



- **Initial and ongoing training for prison library staff**
- **Co-operation with local (public) library service**
 - Ensuring modern, professional standards
 - Sharing knowledge, training and materials
 - Access to OPAC to share materials via inter-library loan
 - Common cultural activities serve as a bridge between both worlds
 - Prison library as a branch library of the local (public) library network

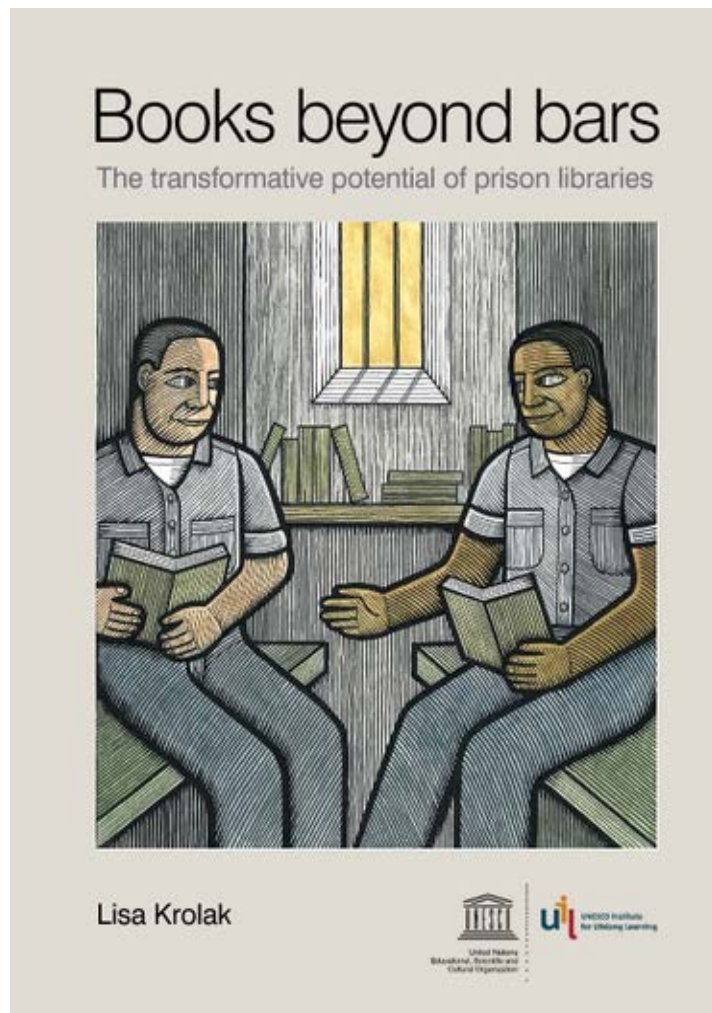


International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

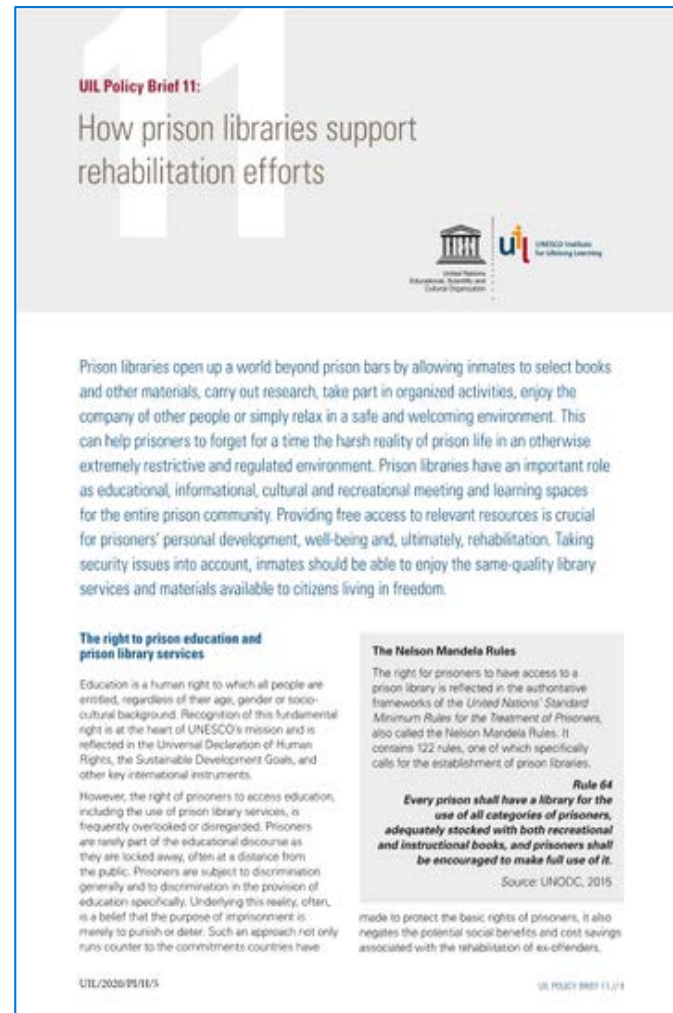
Library Services to People with Special Needs

IFLA Working Group on Prison Libraries

- updating the [IFLA Guidelines for Library Services to Prisoners](#) (2005);
- an [Email Listserv](#) is established to facilitate communication between prison librarians and interested stakeholders from all over the world;
- a [bibliography](#) with research documents and an overview of [working tools](#) are constantly updated;
- organizing a session on prison libraries during the IFLA annual conference 2022.



[Full-text link](#), 50 p.



[Full-text link](#), 4 p.

Thank you

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