

## The Prison Library Support Group

### Declaration of Accession

- as a natural person – €24 membership fee per year
- as a legal entity – € ... membership fee per year  
(e.g. bookshops, libraries, associations, publishers, etc; membership fee not specified; suggestion: €50 per year)
- as a supporting member – € ... membership fee per year  
(supporting members have no voting rights in general meetings.)

I hereby join the Prison Library Support Group  
(Förderverein Gefangenenbüchereien e.V.)

Please fill in the debit authorization enclosed and return it to the  
Prison Library Support Group.

Institution (for legal entities only)

Surname, given name

Address.

Post code, City

Telephone/Fax

Email address

Signature



### References

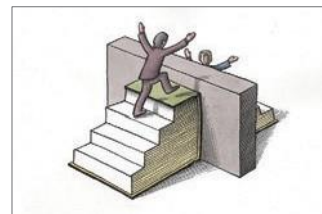
Förderverein Gefangenenbüchereien e.V., Gerhard Peschers (ed.)  
Bücher öffnen Welten. Medien für Menschen in Haft in Deutschland  
und international. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2013

Thomas Sutter, Lesen und Gefangen-Sein. Gefängnisbibliotheken in  
der Schweiz, Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2015

Förderverein Gefangenenbüchereien e.V.(Hrsg.), Bücher öffnen  
Welten: Die Gefangenenbücherei Münster als Deutschlands  
„Bibliothek des Jahres 2007“ – Wurzeln, Werdegang und Wirkung.  
Münster, Ardey 2017

Lisa Krolak. Bücher hinter Gittern: Was Gefängnisbibliotheken  
bewirken können. Hamburg: UNESCO-Institut für das Lebenslange  
Lernen, 2020

For more references, please visit the website of the Prison Library  
Support Group.

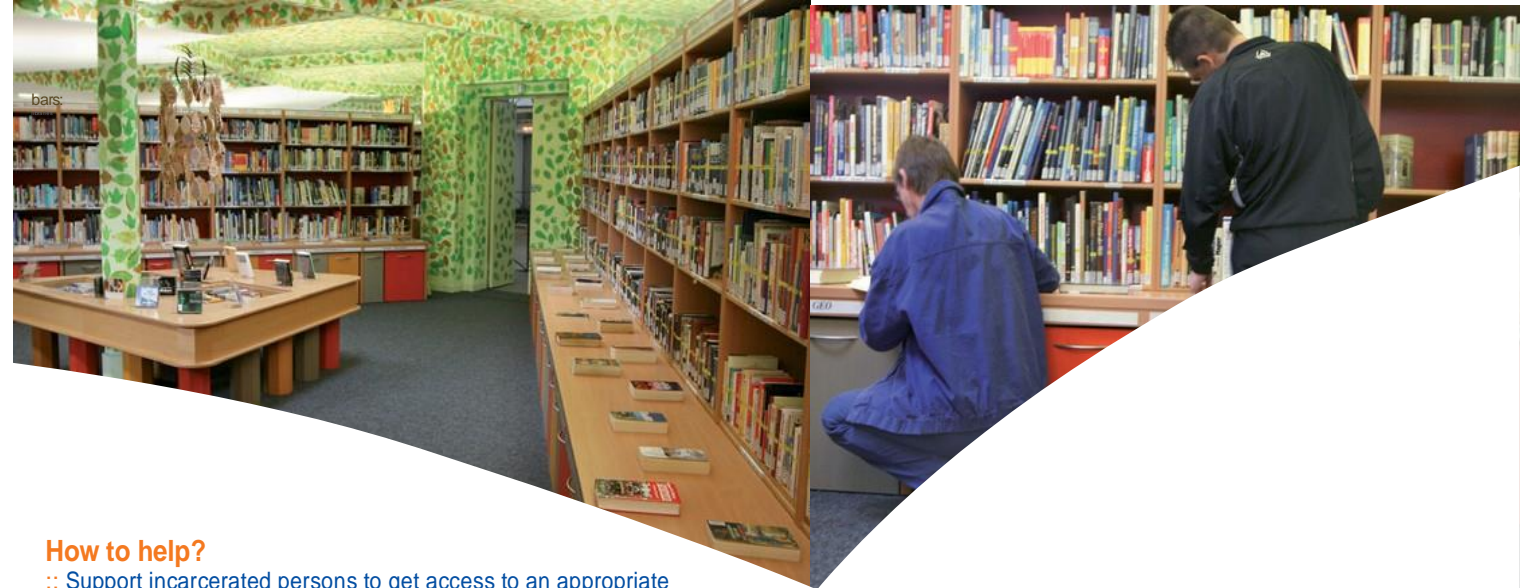


### Travelling Exhibitions

The association offers the following two travelling exhibitions:  
"Libertree. Bücherbäume überbrücken Mauern" shows a vision of  
dialogue and integration over separating walls between people by  
means of media, inter alia, see [www.libertree.eu](http://www.libertree.eu)  
"Lesen verbindet – Alphabetisierung als Menschenrecht"  
documents the problem of illiteracy both in Germany and  
internationally, see [www.raus-blick.de](http://www.raus-blick.de)

### Websites

Homepages of the Prison Library Support Group:  
[www.fvgb.de](http://www.fvgb.de) and [www.libertree.eu](http://www.libertree.eu) International Library  
Association, Section for Prison Libraries:  
<https://www.ifla.org/lsn>.



### How to help?

- ∴ Support incarcerated persons to get access to an appropriate  
media supply.
- ∴ Spend current media that are no more than 5 years old which could  
be of interest for the user. Therefore, please contact the officer in  
charge of the prison library in the correctional facility.
- ∴ Spend money.
- ∴ Raise people's awareness for the needs  
of the Prison Library Support Group.
- ∴ Offer book events and take the initiative for new funding projects.
- ∴ Join the Prison Library Support Group  
(Förderverein Gefangenenbüchereien e.V.).

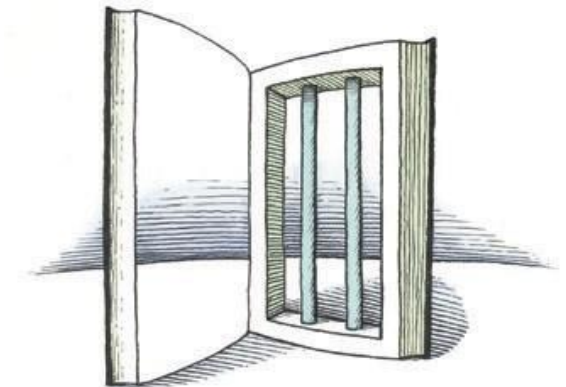
We will be happy to give you a contact on the part of our  
association members or other potential cooperation partners  
regarding any questions, suggestions, project planning, or  
exchange of experiences at place.

### Förderverein Gefangenenbüchereien e.V.

Gerhard Peschers (First Chairman)  
JVA Münster  
Gartenstraße 26  
D - 48147 Münster  
Germany  
Tel.: +49 (0)251 / 2374 - 116  
Email address: [kontakt@fvgb.de](mailto:kontakt@fvgb.de)  
Websites: [www.fvgb.de](http://www.fvgb.de) and [www.libertree.eu](http://www.libertree.eu)

Design: Typophillia Grafikdesign, [www.typophillia.de](http://www.typophillia.de)  
Editing: members of the Prison Library Support Group  
Photos: Rüdiger Wölk (Photos of the Münster Correctional Facility, 2007)  
Translation into English by Birgit Pawelzik

# BOOKS OPEN WORLDS



Prison Library  
Support Group



Sender

To  
Förderverein Gefangenenbüchereien e.V.  
Fachstelle Gefangenenbüchereiwesen  
bei der JVA Münster  
Gerhard Peschers  
Gartenstraße 26  
D - 48147 Münster  
Germany

Direct Debit Authorization

Dear Sir or Madam,  
I hereby authorize the Prison Library Support Group  
revocable to withdraw my membership fee from my bank  
account by means of a direct debit as follows:

IBAN:  
Swift / BIC:  
Bankers:

If my account does not have the required coverage, the account-keeping bank  
institute (Sparkasse Münsterland Ost; BIC WELADED1MST, Förderverein  
Gefangenenbibliotheken e.V.: IBAN DE33 4005 0150 0034 1359 96) is not  
obliged to cover the submitted direct debit.

Date

Signature

### Improved Library Services For Incarcerated Persons

Generally, every correctional facility offers library services for incarcerated persons – directly or by means of a catalogue. Many prisoners discover reading consciously and perceive the library as a “pharmacy for the soul” for the very first time. The prison library serves as an opportunity for constructive leisure activities: recreation, education and personal development of the prison population. It is the Prison Library Support Group’s intention to create awareness among citizens as well as institutions in society and to encourage joint responsibility in solidarity. While cooperating with correctional facilities, the Prison Library Support Group will help to improve the library services for persons in prison and under arrest. Private persons, librarians, book sellers, Officers of the Prison Service, architects, authors, lawyers, and various institutions are among the members of the Prison Library Support Group. The Prison Library Support Group is directly connected to the German Library Association, the German Association of literacy and basic education, the PEN, the Goethe-Institute and the UNESCO. The Prison Library Support Group was founded in December 2016 by 24 members of the Münster Correctional Facility in Germany. Its objective is to find members in Germany and on an international floor in order to promote diverse projects nationwide. The work of the Prison Library Support Group is nicely linked to the cooperation in the Section of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). Meanwhile the Prison Library Support Group counts 130 members. Honorary members are Denis Goldberg (†), Jiri Grusa (†), Günter Kunert (†), Rolfraffael Schröer, Ruth Weiss, a.o.

### Remarkable Facts from the Chronicle of the Prison Library Support Group

#### “Library of the year 2007” in Germany



Bibliothek  
des Jahres  
2007

The prison library of the Münster Correctional Facility was awarded the Library of the year 2007. The jury states that the Prison Library Support Group created the fundamentals to distribute model experiences nationwide in a sustainable way. For information on the history of this prison library and its outsourcing due to the evacuation of the Münster Correctional Facility in 2016, see reference 2017.

#### Concept and Space Renewal

Inspired by the award ceremony, Prof. Julia Bolles-Wilson, a member of the Prison Library Support Group, gave two seminars at the Münster School of Architecture resulting in designing space for 12 new libraries of which several were put into practice later on. In addition, she encouraged renewals in other prison libraries.

### Author Readings

Authors repeatedly participate in events behind bars, thus showing solidarity with the Prison Library Support Group, e.g. Joe Bausch, Jiri Grusa (†), Günter Kunert (†), Sten Nadolny, Bernhard Schlink, Marga Spiegel (†), Erich Loest (†), Wolfgang Hohlbein, Sebastian Fitzek as well as members of the writers’ association or the PEN.

### Exhibitions and Conferences

The Frankfurt Book Fair in 2010 was the first nationwide conference for employees of the prison libraries. At this occasion, the travelling exhibition “Libertree – Bücherbäume überbrücken Mauern“ was presented for the very first time. Since then, it made its way to several German cities as well as to Tallinn, Estonia. Three more national conferences for prison library employees responsible for juvenile offenders took place in cooperation with the Leipzig Book Fair in 2013, 2016 and 2019. Thanks to the cooperation with the German Association of literacy and basic education as well as the UNESCO and the Münster Correctional Facility, the travelling exhibition “Lesen verbindet – Alphabetisierung als Menschenrecht“ was opened in 2013 and has since been touring to many cities. In 2014 the first prison library staff meeting was initiated in Bavaria and the development of prison libraries in this state has since been promoted continuously. In 2019 the first conference about prison libraries was initiated in Switzerland by a member of the Prison Library Support Group.

### Specialist Literature

In 2013, the Prison Library Support Group published the reference book “Bücher öffnen Welten. Medienangebote für Menschen in Haft in Deutschland und international“ by the publisher de Gruyter and presented it at the occasion of the international Library Congress in 2015 by means of a poster session. In 2017 the documentation of the Münster prison library was published, the former “Library of the year 2007“. In 2019 the UNESCO published the brochure “Books beyond bars“ about international prison libraries, developed under the leadership of a member of the Prison Library Support Group for the first time. It was presented at the international Library Congress in 2019 by means of a poster session and translated into German in 2020.

### Price Competition “Prison Library of the Year”

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, a price competition for prison libraries was announced in 2016 for the very first time. It honors successful media services for incarcerated persons setting impulsive signs for the further development of future prison libraries.

### Major Achievements

Quotations made by the members of the Prison Library Support Group:

A user-friendly designed prison library invites you to experience the colorful diversity of literature. Its media services are assumed as luck and as a chance by the prisoners.  
Bernhard Schlink, author

Studies show that incarcerated persons have more difficulties in reading and writing compared to the total population. Thus, a well-stocked library along with an active reading promotion and an offer for easily readable texts for adults is essential.  
Peter Hubertus, 1995-2014 CEO of the German Association of literacy and basic education.

We should give the prisoners a new perspective, a new chance during their forced detention, starting from day one. They should discover other stories than those ones they already know; they should read, which is a very active activity, and make reading an entertaining and comforting habit. This will not make them better persons but more hopeful persons. That would be a major achievement.  
Sten Nadolny, author

Many prisoners became delinquent because they did not learn how to use their leisure time responsibly. Therefore, the prison libraries actively contribute to their social rehabilitation.  
Roswitha Müller-Piepenkötter, 2005-2010 Minister of Justice in North Rhine-Westphalia

Reading shows new living conditions giving one’s own life new perspectives  
Maria Look, 2001-2014 Head of the Münster Correctional Facility

Captivated by reading, the shackles of reality fall away.  
Günter Kunert (†), author