

Book Vendor Updates

Date: March 20, 2025

To: All Incarcerated People in DOC Facilities and DOC Staff

From: Crystal Brakke, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Teaching and Learning

This memo replaces previous updates from 2024 about allowable book vendors. There are now three ways to receive books in DOC facilities.

1. Purchase books directly from approved vendors.
 - You can purchase new books from the following catalog companies:
 - Books N Things catalogs
 - Hamilton Books catalogs
 - Books can also be purchased directly from the following publishers (books purchased using the “buy from other retailers” option on their websites will not be allowed):
 - Harper Collins
 - Hachette Book Group
 - Penguin Random House
 - Simon & Schuster
2. Receive donated books from approved nonprofit organizations.
 - Individuals may receive new or used books from the following approved nonprofit organizations:
 - Books to Prisoners
 - Midwest Books to Prisoners
 - Prison Book Program
 - Prison Library Project
 - Women’s Prison Book Project

Note: It is better to request genres of interest rather than specific titles, as inventories are constantly changing. These programs also accept requests from loved ones with instructions available on their websites, which will be posted on DOC’s public webpage.

Any additional nonprofits wishing to donate books to incarcerated individuals will be reviewed by the Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Teaching and Learning.

3. Access DOC library services.
 - DOC facilities have robust libraries, staffed by professional librarians. Please utilize these free resources and know that facility librarians are regularly assessing demand for specific genres or titles. You can also contact chaplains to inquire about faith-based reading materials.