The Book Vault – The Story of a Prison Library

How a correctional library went from books on a shelf to a fully functioning educational library.

Karen Cook-Newbury & Camille Bultena

Friday June 4th, 2021

Who We Are

Karen Cook-Newbury and Camille Bultena

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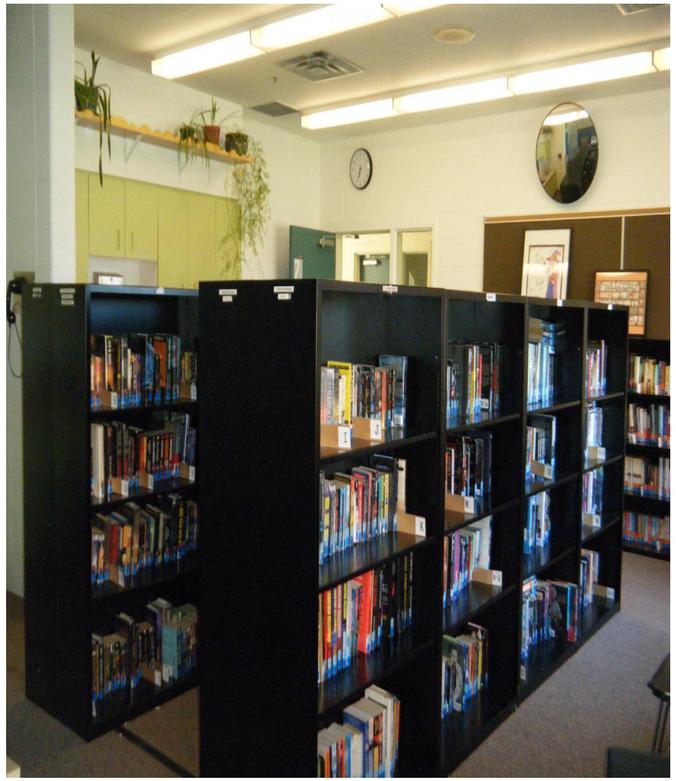
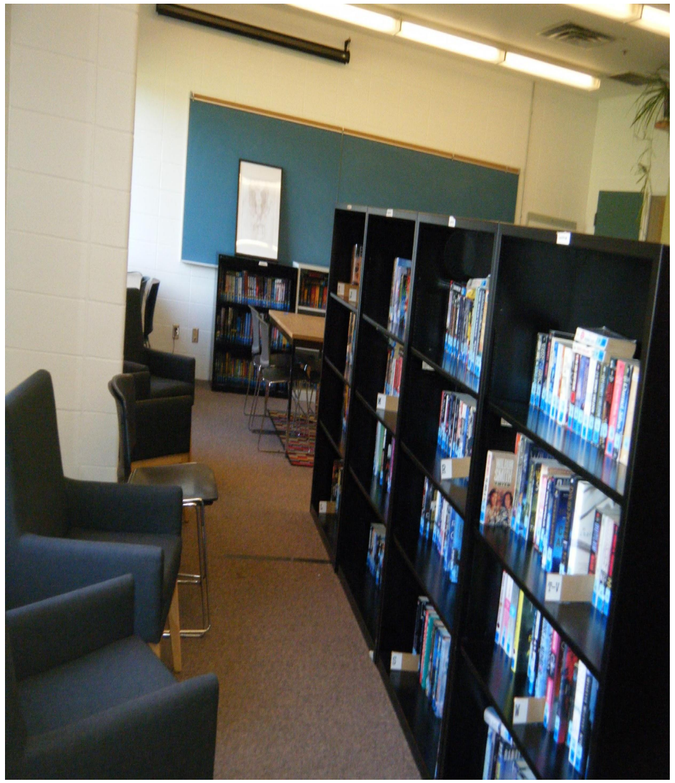
History of the FSCC Library

Then and Now

Some photos of the library at the FSCC:





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Why does a prison need a library anyway?

The importance of library access for incarcerated individuals

"Education is a human right to which all people are entitled, regardless of age or sociocultural background" -David Atchoarena from *Books Beyond Bars*

Created by Palukx
from Noun Project

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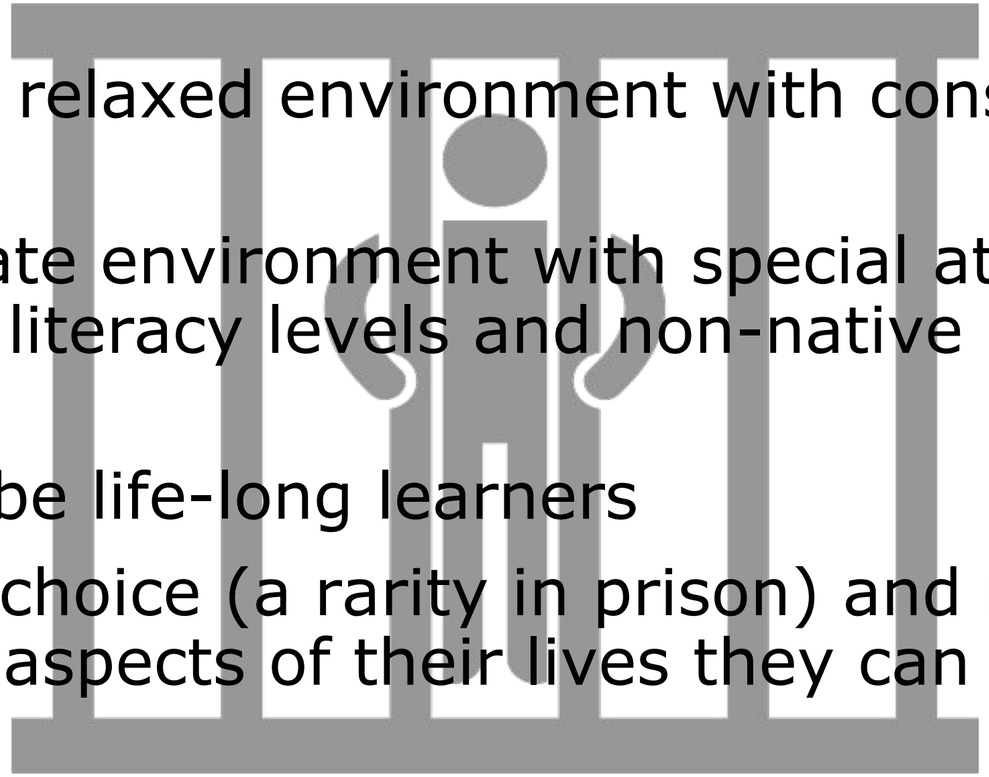
Benefits of a prison library:



- Provide a safe and relaxed environment with constructive ways to spend time
- Help create a literate environment with special attention to prisoners with low literacy levels and non-native language backgrounds
- Allows inmates to be life-long learners
- Allows freedom of choice (a rarity in prison) and reminds inmates that there are still aspects of their lives they can control

Created by Andrew Doane
from Noun Project

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Libib

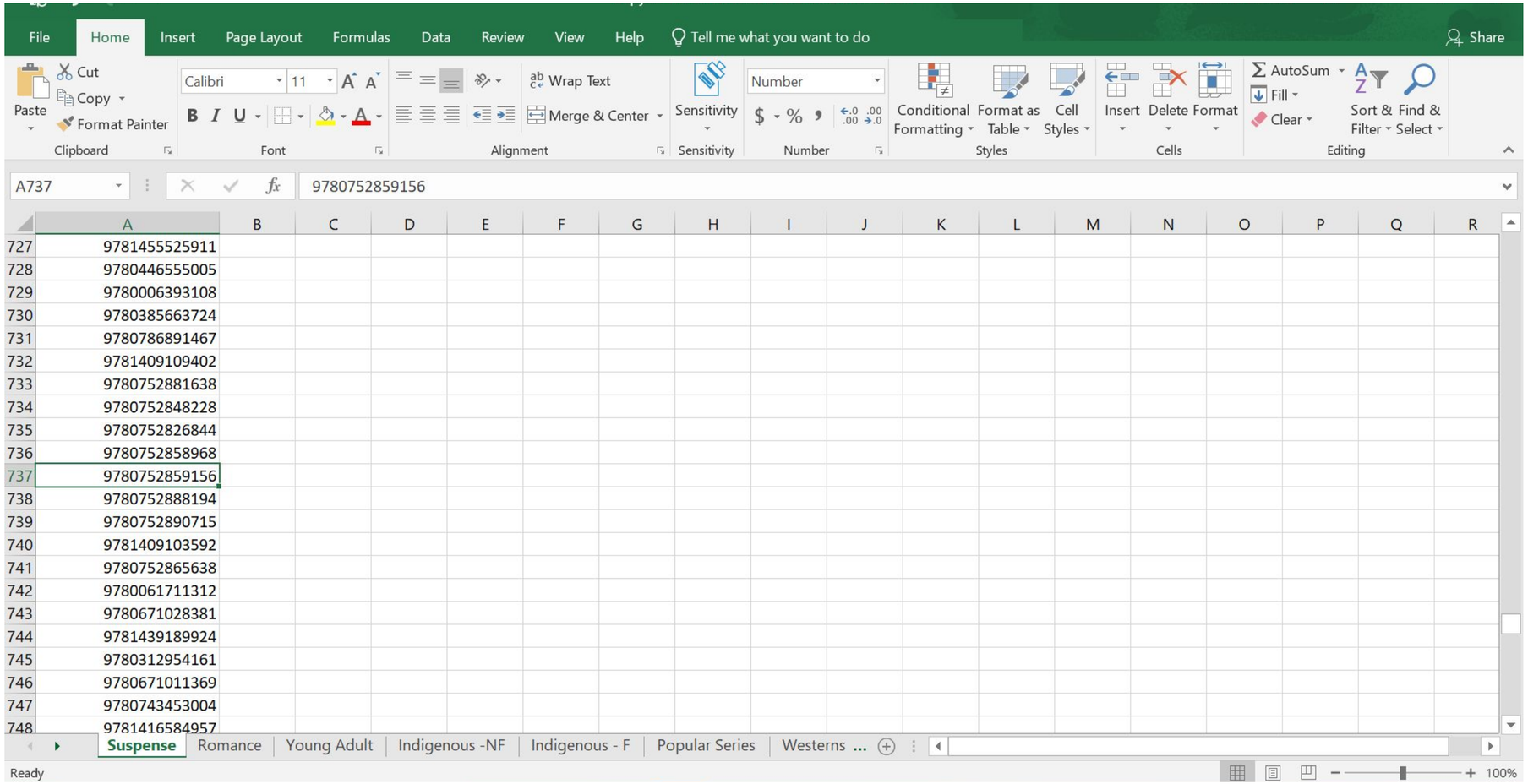
How a library with limited internet access ended up using a cloud-based cataloguing system

Email message from Karen Cook-Newbury,

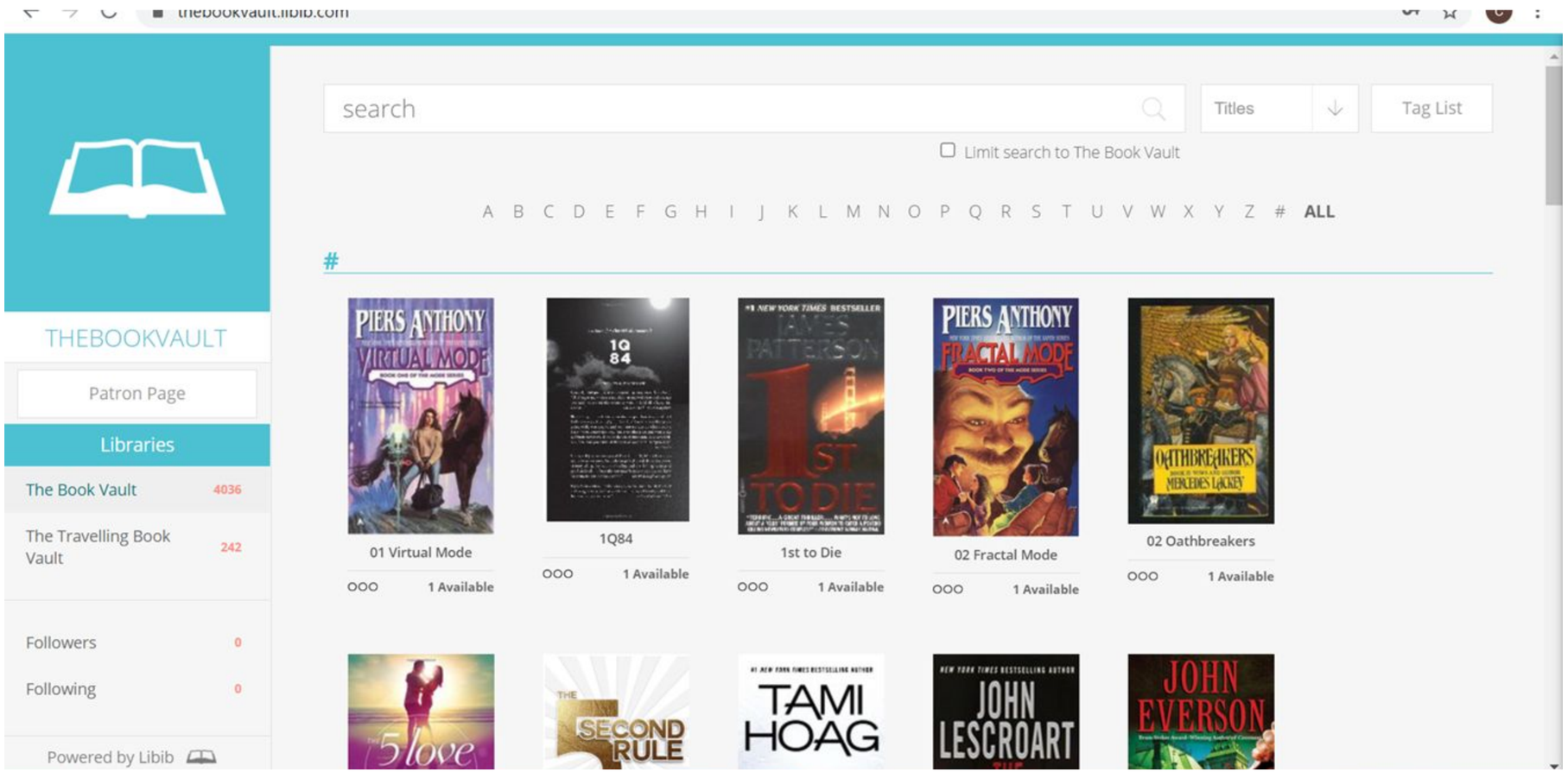
November 2, 2020

"We do not have wifi in the Centre …Currently, students request books through their instructors and the instructors pull them and deliver them to the students. This is why having the library catalogued would be so ideal at this time. **The instructors need to know what is there and where to find it**. We also need to be able to track what students, on what living units (their address) took out the books and returned them. Before COVID students would have access to the library and would choose their own books. We would keep a borrowing Excel spreadsheet. This worked, but we still were not easily able to see what books were missing, popular, where they were, etc. Also, with the spreadsheet kept on a USB and many instructors using it the formatting, and other things would often be changed and/or lost.

How we went from this...



… to this:


thebookvault.libib.com
search
Titles
Tag List
Limit search to The Book Vault
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z # ALL
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THEBOOKVAULT
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Libraries
The Book Vault 4036
The Travelling Book Vault 242
Followers 0
Following 0
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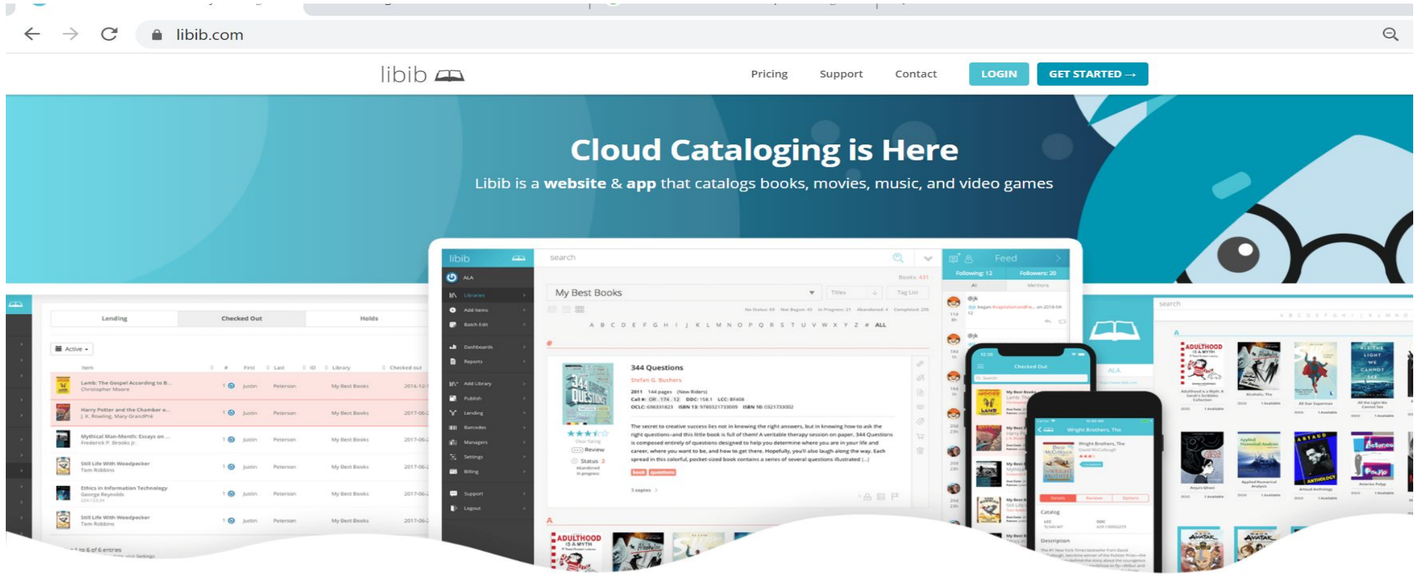
02 Oathbreakers
1 Available

Why Libib?



Create & Share Your Collection

5. Information Technology

5.1 The prison library should make use of current information technology to the extent possible without compromising prison security.

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Benefits of Libib:

Libib Standard

Built for personal collections — free!

- Manage books movies, music, and games
- Catalog Up to 5,000 items
- Create up 100 different libraries
- Add items by scanning, searching, ISBN/UPC, or CSV Import
- Import / export your libraries — it is your data!
- Cloud Sync
- Automatic data for your items
- Manual entry for rare or antique items
- Tagging, grouping, basic editing
- Easy-to-use intuitive interface where design matters
- Manage Libib from anywhere using our iOS or Android app — our camera scanner is lightning fast
- Beautiful Statistics
- Publish your libraries for everyone to view
- Connect and share with others
- Review items (with half stars if you like) and track your progess
- We do **NOT** sell your data under any circumstances — your privacy is our priority
- **No Ads** because we don't like them either

25% discount for education or non-profit

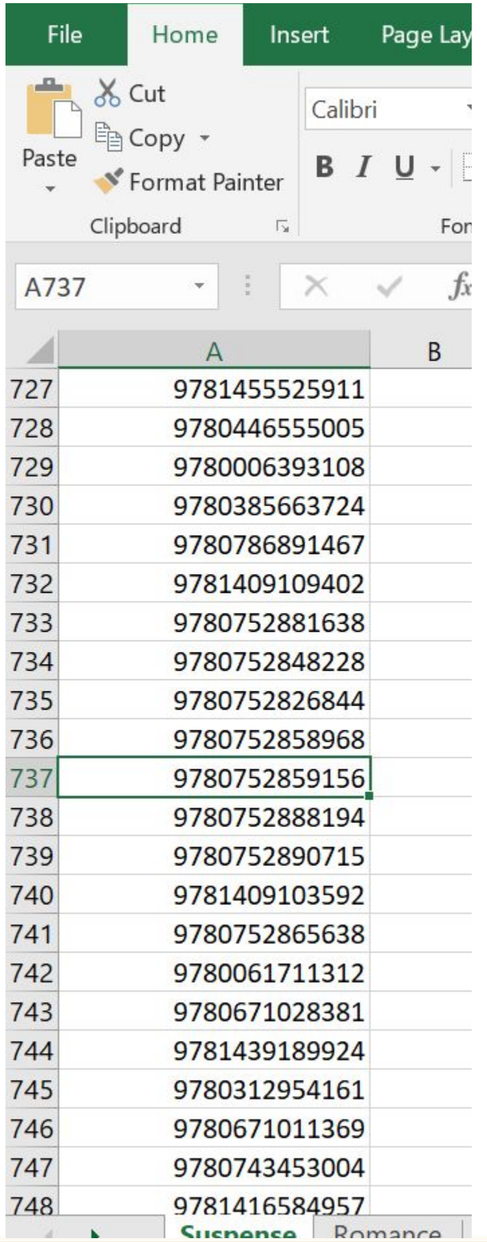
Libib Pro

Upgraded for schools, small orgs & power users.

- **ALL** Libib Standard features plus...
- Catalog Up to 100,000 items
- Multi-user management
- Lending / Circulation System
- Unlimited patrons
- Expanded searching
- Custom branding and colors for published libraries
- Interactive published library with multiple layout options
- Patron self-checkouts & holds
- Patron email notifications
- Manager / Patron management via **REST API**
- Kiosk app for patron self-checkout (iOS / Android / Web)
- Batch editing
- Add books by Library of Congress Number
- DDC, LCC, LCCN, and OCLC for books
- Lexiles
- Auto-generated and managed custom barcodes
- Patron ID / custom barcode creation tool
- Additional light and dark mobile app themes
- Ability to edit all field data

Scanning and Entering 4300 items (and counting)

- Karen would go to the FSCC and scan the ISBN of each item (sorted by genre) into an Excel spreadsheet
- Once I received the Excel spreadsheet, I would convert to a .csv and upload into Libib
- Once the items were uploaded, I would go into Libib and edit the item information and add tagging information to aid in organization



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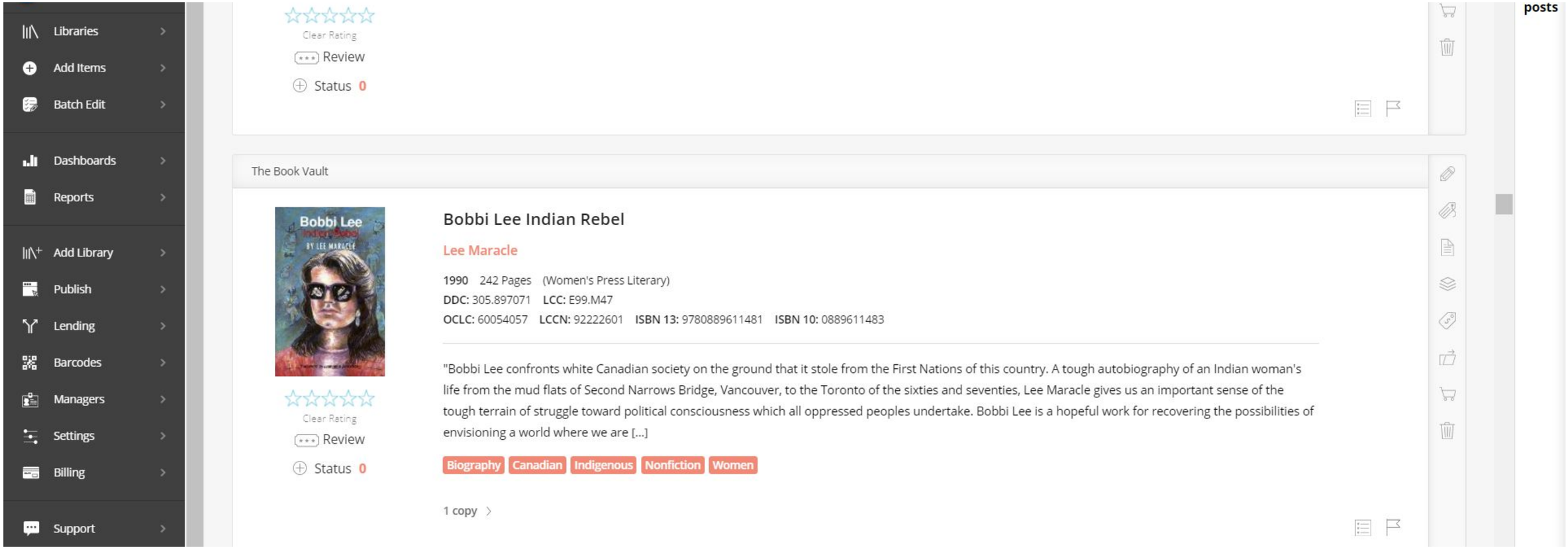
Tagging:


Libraries
Add Items
Batch Edit
Dashboards
Reports
Add Library
Publish
Lending
Barcodes
Managers
Settings
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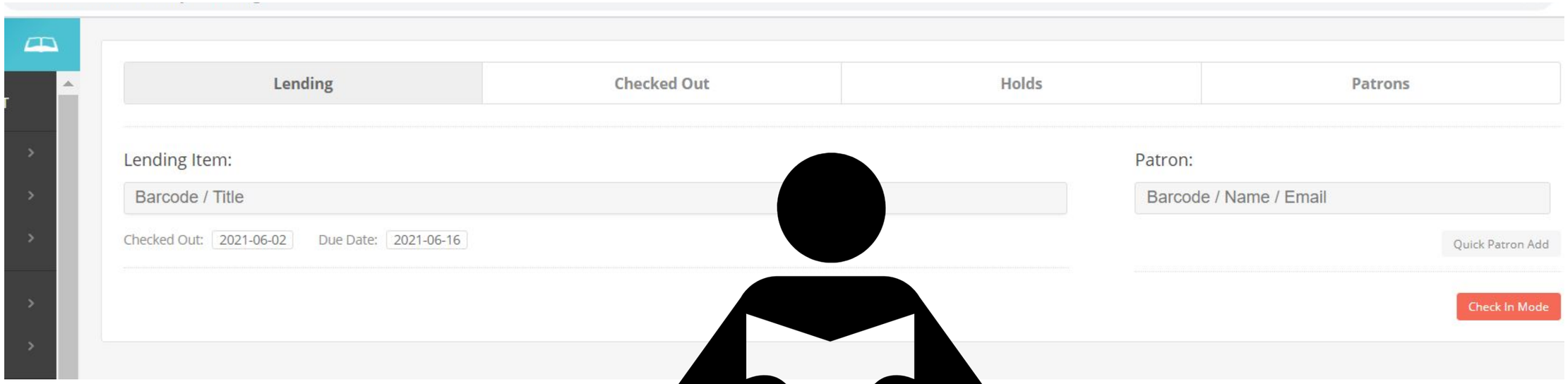
Bobbi Lee
BY LEE MARACLE
Bobbi Lee Indian Rebel
Lee Maracle
1990 242 Pages (Women's Press Literary)
DDC: 305.897071 LCC: E99.M47
OCLC: 60054057 LCCN: 92222601 ISBN 13: 9780889611481 ISBN 10: 0889611483
"Bobbi Lee confronts white Canadian society on the ground that it stole from the First Nations of this country. A tough autobiography of an Indian woman's life from the mud flats of Second Narrows Bridge, Vancouver, to the Toronto of the sixties and seventies, Lee Maracle gives us an important sense of the tough terrain of struggle toward political consciousness which all oppressed peoples undertake. Bobbi Lee is a hopeful work for recovering the possibilities of envisioning a world where we are [...]
Biography
Canadian
Indigenous
Nonfiction
Women
1 copy
Clear Rating
Review
Status 0

Circulation and lending



Challenges we Face and Continue to Overcome

It's jail!

- Getting in . . .
  and oh yeah getting out.
- Searching and sniffing
- Disruption and churn
- Technology
- No permanent Librarian position

Outcomes: Here to There

The Two-Year Plan

MAJOR POINTS OF THE IFLA GUIDLEINES FOR LIBRARY SERVICES TO PRISONERS

✔ **Written policies for the provision of library services in prisons should be in place, clearly stating mission, goal and funding source.**	✔ **The design should include functional lighting, computer use, climate control.**
✔ Local library procedures and long-term plans should be developed.	✔ The library floor space should be large enough to accommodate user activities, staff functions, and materials storage and display.
· Libraries and associated services should be accessible to all prisoners.	· The prison library should make use of current information technology to the extent possible without compromising prison security.
· At least 100 popular and current books, or two books per prisoner, should be available in each housing unit and changed at least once per month.	· All prison libraries, regardless of size, should be supervised/managed by a professional librarian.
· Every prisoner should be able to select at least two titles per week.	· Library staff should be given opportunities to participate in professional organizations and to attend professional development and continuing education programs.
✔ The library should be situated at a central location within the prison, preferably near the education department.	Lehmann and Locke, 2005

The Environment

The Collection

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Service & Activities

Resources

Resources and Further Reading

- Walmsey, A. (2015). The Prison Book Club. Viking. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/24876660-the-prison-book-club
- Houses of Hate: How Canada's prison system is broken by Justin Ling https://www.macleans.ca/news/canada/houses-of-hate-how-canadas-prison-system-is-broken/
- https://bookriot.com/listen/books-behind-bars-part-1/
- Krolak, L. (2019). Books beyond bars: *The transformative potential of prison libraries*. Hamburg: UNESCO
- Lehmann V. & Locke J. (2005) *Guidelines for library services to prisoners*. The Hague: IFLA. https://www.ifla.org/publications/ifla-professional-reports-92