CALL FOR PAPERS

For publication in ADVANCING CORRECTIONS

ISSUE # 16: "REFORMING CORRECTIONS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY"

JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CORRECTIONS AND PRISONS ASSOCIATION

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AIMS AND SCOPE OF ADVANCING CORRECTIONS

The ICPA believes that development of a professional and humane corrections should be grounded in evidence. Respect for evidence is a hallmark of the ICPA. But evidence is of little value unless it is understood and put into action. Our semi-annual Journal *Advancing Corrections* is intended to fill the need for researchers to speak more clearly to practitioners and practitioners to speak in a more evidence-informed way to their colleagues. We want to provide a forum for both researchers and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines (criminal justice, education, psychology, sociology, political science, economics, public health, and social work) to publish papers that examine issues from a unique, interdisciplinary and global perspective. Your paper could be an evidence-informed discussion of an important correctional issue, an overview of some new research findings and their implications for practice, a description of an innovative program or approach, or an informed commentary on some aspect of managing a key issue in corrections.

The Journal invites submission of papers that can be digested and appreciated by practitioners, managers, policy-makers and other correctional professionals. Authors are welcomed to submit papers for one of three sections of the Journal. *Featured Research Articles* should be more research oriented and scholarly, including the usual practice of referencing the relevant literature. Another section called *Views and Reviews* welcomes shorter and thoughtful discussions of relevant or emerging issues/topics. And finally, a section on *Practice Innovation in Corrections* aims to profile what is going on in a given agency/jurisdiction that is especially innovative and can be of interest broadly to others.

THEME FOR THE 16TH EDITION: "REFORMING CORRECTIONS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY"

Corrections is undergoing a fundamental transformation. Increasingly, technologies of various forms, though especially digital technologies, are permeating the way that justice involved individuals are experiencing incarceration or community supervision. Technology is determining how we make key decisions affecting these individuals, how we monitor their behaviour, design the delivery of interventions, provide access to new forms of educational, vocational or leisure and recreational involvements, and shape our response to their health and well-being concerns. Technology is helping connect those in custody with the outside world and helping support and guide those under supervision to access a range of community resources. In many ways, because of the pace and reach of technology, both service delivery,

and the cardinal aim of corrections to maintain safety and security, can become more efficient and less costly, and in some instances, perhaps even more effective. There is a promise that technology in corrections can create more humane environments rather than more intrusive or oppressive ones, that it can help make correctional work more rewarding rather than less necessary, and that it can give correctional leaders new opportunities to design a more cost-effective correctional process, especially in terms of providing meaningful support for successful reintegration and resettlement. In brief, technology is undoubtedly creating a revolution of innovation in corrections and whether we embrace it enthusiastically, or welcome it only cautiously, there is no denying that we should strive to study, learn from and adjust our design and implementation of new technology with respect for both research and practice-informed evidence.

But there is perhaps an even more underlying imperative than simply focusing on technology as an instrumental means to improve correctional practice. Technology presents corrections an opportunity for broad-based reform and reflection on its key aims. If it is indeed true that 'you can judge a society by how it treats its prisoners', then corrections clearly has some responsibility to help close the digital divide rather than widen it. Corrections needs to accept and anticipate the digital transformation of the world around us, give individuals under our care reasonable access and exposure to that technology and prepare them to face the new digital world we all have to contend with. Corrections in that sense needs to change not just *through* technology but *because* of it.

This 16th Edition of Advancing Corrections wishes to capture the range of ways that are already being applied, or only beginning to be developed, for *Reforming Corrections Through Technology.*

We want to explore the variety of technologies that are impinging on correctional operations and the design of settings, services, treatments, trainings and assessment and monitoring methods. In particular, we want to highlight examples of successful approaches, including where public-private partnerships and other collaborative efforts have overcome obstacles and inertia in implementation.

We want to welcome contributions that reflect on the prospect of correctional reform through technology and which informs recommendations for practice, policy and research:

– Reasoned and evidence-based arguments regarding the potential benefits, but also the possible disadvantages and risks in adopting particular technologies;

– Empirically informed and critical discussions of how digital should be addressed in policy that can support correctional reform and benefit its users, the organisations, and the broader community;

– Insights and critical reflections on how the role of corrections is changing and adapting to the digital world;

– Reasoned and evidence-based arguments regarding the impact direct and indirect changes in society are having on corrections and our responsibility to alter current

practices for a new world where digital has become (for some) the new normal;

- Insights and critical reflections on the implementation of digital technologies and lessons learned in digitalization of correctional practice, in either custody or community settings;

- Empirical explorations of how justice involved individuals and/or correctional staff and managers have responded, adapted and perceived the introduction of digital or other new technologies;

- Insights into the design and delivery of rehabilitation focused correctional programming, educational or vocational training of our justice involved individuals, and training of our correctional workforce;

- Examples of how digital technologies have changed the design of our supervised or carceral environments and how the evolution of virtual possibilities can alter the way we think about the fashioning of those environments;

- Discussion of key challenges and obstacles that need to be overcome in introducing new technologies (including in bringing new technologies to the developing world);

- Exploring the impact of digital inequality and examples of how new technology can be used for supporting vulnerable or disadvantaged and marginalized populations;

- Discussions of the potential (and the potential pitfalls) of emerging AI and machine-learning technologies both for information management and risk assessment in corrections, and for application of new security mechanisms for monitoring and control in prison environments;

- And finally, perspectives regarding what research is needed to move us further forward in reforming corrections through technology;

In submitting your manuscript, we ask that you please provide a succinct summary of how your paper specifically relates to the overall Theme of the Edition or any particular sub-theme. Your manuscript may not be accepted without this.

HOW SHOULD YOU SUBMIT YOUR PAPER?

Manuscripts should follow the *Guidelines for Authors* for the Journal. Suggested page length is from 7 to 15 pages (about 2,000 to 5,000 word-count), although lengthier research-oriented manuscripts or reviews may be considered based on merit. Whenever appropriate, papers should include referencing of other related scholarly work, though it is emphasized that *Advancing Corrections* is not intended as an academic publication. Papers should be respectful of evidence but they should be written in a way that appeals to practitioners. Manuscripts should be submitted electronically to **Frank Porporino**, Ph.D., Chair of the ICPA Research and Development Network and Editor of Advancing Corrections (fporporino@rogers.com).   A

copy should also be forwarded to the ICPA Membership Liaison and Project Support Officer, **Ilinca Cojocaru** at the ICPA Head Office (ilincacojocaru@icpa.org).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR PAPER?

Advancing Corrections has an international Editorial Review Board and submitted papers **will undergo a formal and rigorous 'peer review' process**. The ICPA Research and Development (R&D) Network is committed to finding more and better ways of communicating research-informed knowledge to the ICPA membership. Many of the members of the group serve as reviewers of submitted manuscripts.

The Editor of *Advancing Corrections* will manage the process of selecting manuscripts for review. For this special Edition, in choosing the final set of papers to be included, the Editor will be consulting with key members of the ICPA Technology Network as Associate Editors. Papers that may not be suitable for publication may nonetheless be posted on the ICPA Web Site or included in the ICPA Newsletter for the information of ICPA members.

Please note that we will not accept papers that are submitted after the deadline for a given Edition of *Advancing Corrections*.

It is policy of the Journal to encourage the use of 'humanizing' language in referring to those individuals we incarcerate or supervise in the community (e.g., refer to justice involved individuals rather than 'offenders' or 'prisoners'). We ask Authors to make use of more humanizing language throughout their manuscripts.

Please note as well that we will not accept papers that simply attempt to promote a particular product or market a particular method or service without supportive evidence of effectiveness. Advancing Corrections is not a marketing vehicle. It is a professional Journal intended to broaden our knowledge base in corrections.

If you believe that evidence and facts should be the drivers for change in corrections rather than ungrounded opinion or ideology, please make an effort to support our ICPA Journal.