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Using Digital Scholarship Tools to Spark Entrepreneurial Spirit in Incarcerated Individuals

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Let's start with a poll...

[POLLEV.COM/JSZEMPRUCH311](https://pollev.com/jszempruch311)





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1970 = 196,000

2017 = ~1.5 million

95% of those incarcerated
are released

Between 600,000 and
700,000 individuals come
home each year





After release, formally incarcerated individuals are faced with invisible punishments...

- Denied voting rights, access to housing, & welfare benefits
- Must disclose felon status



Which lead to...

- Less civic engagement
- Homelessness
- Continued or worsened physical and mental health
- Unemployment
- Increased recidivism

The role of education in prison is to provide incarcerated individuals with the tools for successful reintegration.



Inmate Entrepreneurship Initiative



118 graduates since 2016

At Hardee Correctional Institution



Sarasota County Jail



More progressive stance on rehabilitation

- All incarcerated individuals receive tablets
- Over 90 educational, vocational, and rehabilitation programs
- Four (4) pods – men's substance recovery pod, women's substance recovery pod, reentry pod, mental health/care pod

Where does digital scholarship come into play?

Studies show that digital literacy not only improves one's chances of finding employment post-incarceration, but it also reduces the likelihood of returning to confinement.



Enhancing our program in jail

Open Educational Resources



Access to tablets = more flexibility to deliver educational content to more learners

Opportunity for module-based learning via OER and Creative Commons materials

Quality-driven approach (UDL)

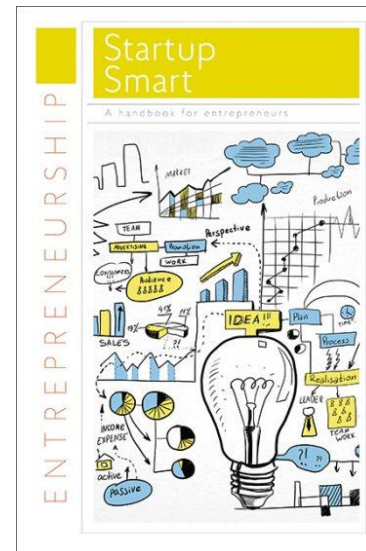
Digital Scholarship Examples



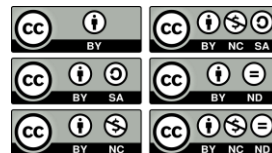
MEDIA INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
 Edited by Michelle Ferrier & Elizabeth Mays



Sustainability, Innovation,
 and Entrepreneurship



Entrepreneurial Behavior: Transforming an Innovative Idea into an Entrepreneurial Product





Digital Accessibility

Quality Matters - is a research-based national benchmark aimed at improving student learning experiences in online programs and courses.

Accessible PDFs

- Cross platform compatibility
- Screen reader compatibility
- Navigational Aids
- Accessibility report/checker



Future Possibilities

Successful implementation of PDFs and OER materials may lead to more opportunities to incorporate additional interactive instructional technology tools including:

- Interactive video
- Polling
- Office365



Intentional Change = Meaningful Results

Leveraging digital scholarship opportunities at the Sarasota County Jail will allow us to not only improve the efficiency of the course delivery, but to also prepare those incarcerated to be successful as they navigate employment opportunities post-release.





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Contact us!

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