NJ State Library

An affiliate of Thomas Edison State University

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY

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ADVANCING OUR PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION

Connecting people with information through libraries

Our overall theme from the past year was collaboration. There are very few projects or programs listed in the following report which did not involve internal or external collaboration with new or existing partners, and which were made all the richer for this outreach. Programs ranging from workforce development and small business outreach, to cultural competency, diversity and literacy were made possible through valuable community connections. As we look towards the future, partnerships will continue to be an important element of our work in order to make gains for the library community and the people of New Jersey.

Libraries have historically filled the role of a trusted information source. Our current outreach and community programs have been successful in connecting with and supporting non-traditional users. Library facilities are no longer viewed as passive repositories of information, but are social and activity centers where different facets of the community come together to express themselves and gain experience with new technologies. The library has become a nexus where businesses, non-profits and social groups now gather to take advantage of education and training resources.

Additionally, changes in our society – brought about in part by new technologies – continue to prompt modifications of the library's mission. Events beyond our control, from natural disasters, civil unrest and protests, to an aging infrastructure, wide-scale power outages and dangerous cyber-attacks, have pointed out another role for libraries – that of a safe haven where librarians, skilled in customer service and effective communications, can help those struggling to cope with unusual and stressful situations. Through continuing education, training opportunities and community-focused programming, the New Jersey State Library (NJSL) continues to work tirelessly to strengthen community libraries for resiliency in these ever-changing times.

The projects and programs described here are not an exhaustive list, but rather highlights of strategies and activities resulting from partnerships across departments internally, and with our existing network of affiliations and alliances.

STATE LIBRARY MANAGEMENT TEAM

FROM LEFT

MARY L. CHUTE
State Librarian
New Jersey

MARGARET NIZOLEK
Chief Deputy State Librarian
State Library Information Center (SLIC)

ADAM SZCZEPANIAK
Deputy State Librarian
Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC)

PEGGY CADIGAN
Deputy State Librarian
Innovation & Strategic Partnerships

KATHLEEN MOELLER-PEIFFER
Deputy State Librarian
Library Support Services (LSS)

MICHELE STRICKER
Deputy State Librarian
Lifelong Learning

TIFFANY McCLARY
Director
Communications, Marketing & Outreach

MIKE RASIMOWICZ
Director
Information Technology (IT)

SHERI SHAFER
Chief Financial Officer
New Jersey State Library

The Office of the State Librarian promotes exemplary service in accordance with New Jersey Library Law; supports professional development through LibraryLinkNJ, the New Jersey Library Cooperative; and is responsible for Information Technology; the Business Office; and the Office of Communications, Marketing & Outreach. The Office is also responsible for Library Development through the Lifelong Learning, Library Support Services, and Innovation & Strategic Partnerships business units.

SUPPORTING THE STAFF AND STUDENTS OF THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY (TESU)

The State Library continues to assist TESU staff and course developers with their research needs, including the availability of articles mentors wish to include in courses, detailed information about databases under consideration, information literacy resources and open educational resources. Reference assistance, access to periodical articles, books, databases and interlibrary loan services are available to TESU students. Additionally, NJSL provides a library orientation for TESU's onsite Accelerated 2nd Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students and the Doctor of Nursing Practice students. These sessions focus on library services and databases available to them, and provides an overview on effective searching.

PROGRAMMING FOR STATE EMPLOYEES

NJSL offered a wide variety of interesting and educational programming that also raised awareness of the State Library among state employees and the public. Seventy-two "NJSL Presents" classes, programs, and Author Talks drew 1,531 people to the library. Thematic programming on a variety of topics was explored – including genealogy, health, finances, careers, and more – with a number of classes and programs related to African American History Month (February), Women's History Month (March), MoneySmart Week (April) Family History Month (September), National Family History Month (October), Veterans' Day (November), and Patriot's Week (December). The State Library also participated in the annual NJ Makers Day in March, along with more than 300 locations throughout the state, providing unique, hands-on making and learning events and attracting more than 100,000 residents statewide.

UPDATES TO JERSEYCONNECT CORE NETWORK AND SERVICES

JerseyConnect is NJSL's statewide technology infrastructure. Over the course of the last year, the *JerseyConnect* team made a number of updates to core network and services, including replacing end of life core network equipment as part of an ongoing effort to maintain the latest technology in our data centers, and in the spring of 2018 launching a new service in partnership with GoDaddy, offering domain name registrations to libraries at a discounted rate. *JerseyConnect* also announced new pricing for EVPL (Ethernet Virtual Private Line) circuits and signed a new E-Rate eligible EVPL contract through 2022, representing a significant cost savings from previous contracts.

TECHNOLOGY STUDY

In an effort to effectively plan for maintenance and future development of statewide support for libraries' technology needs, NJSL decided to assess current needs and available resources. Consultant Carson Block was hired in 2017 to conduct a study that included interviewing consortia, county and individual library administrators, and staff throughout New Jersey, as well as State Library staff. Topics covered address both the current state of the network and what might be done to enhance NJSL's support of technology in the future. Research concluded in 2018 and results will be rolled out in early 2019.

NJ State Librarian Mary Chute welcomes new directors to the training.

NEW DIRECTORS TRAINING

In February, twenty-five new library directors from across New Jersey came together for two days of training in order to learn more about NJSL services and how to more efficiently and effectively perform in their roles as library directors. The highly rated *New Directors Training,* held annually in February, covers library law, marketing, budgets and finance, grants, strategic planning, purchasing, and other issues and trends facing libraries.

2018 LITERACY BOOT CAMP

Following up on the success of the inaugural Literacy Boot Camp in 2015, NJSL, in partnership with the Plainfield Public Library, held its second Literacy Boot Camp. After three months of intensive adult literacy training, 19 graduates walked away with the skills and tools necessary to create, run and sustain library-based adult literacy programs to meet the needs of their communities.

The workshops were held bi-weekly, consisting of five, half-day, in-person workshops that included structured, hands-on learning and sharing of New Jersey libraries' best practices in the field of adult literacy. Course elements included community needs assessment, data use for planning, curriculum design, recruiting and training tutors, advertising and management.

Mimi Lee, NJSL Diversity & Literacy Consultant.

CROSS CULTURAL COMMUNICATORS IN LIBRARIES

NJSL was announced as the recipient of an FY2018 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for $222,697. Funds will support NJSL's Cross Cultural Communicators in Libraries: Developing Culturally and Linguistically Competent Bilingual Library Professionals two-year project, which will train English/Spanish bilingual librarians and library staff in cultural competence, interpretation and translation skills in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and California.

NJLibsGrowBiz Keynote speaker Barbara Alvarez.

NJLIBSGROWBIZ SUMMIT

In May, the NJSL hosted the 2018 NJLibsGrowBiz Summit with 86 attendees. The all day summit was designed to educate and inspire librarians to connect with their business communities. The event provided valuable, real-world insight, and featured breakout sessions detailing what businesses want from libraries and what libraries can offer businesses.

TBBC GOLF CLASSIC

Under a sunny sky with a refreshing breeze, over 40 golf enthusiasts, including those with visual impairments, took to the links of the Hopewell Valley Golf and Country Club in support of the NJ State Library Talking Book and Braille Center on Monday, June 11. This marked the seventh year of the tournament, which featured a shotgun start at noon. An awards dinner followed.

Vito DeSantis, blind U.S. Army veteran, takes a shot during the putting contest.

NON-PROFIT WORKSHOP WITH CONGRESSMAN PALLONE

In June, NJSL's grants manager, and business & funding information librarian presented during a workshop hosted by Congressman Pallone, detailing the resources available through libraries for finding grants, and highlighting NJSL's "Funding Information Collection".

The presentation explained the use of databases, print resources and available classes, gave tips for finding grants, and discussed the Funding Information Network Partners of New Jersey and how to use Foundation Directory Online Professional and government websites to search for grants. Other presenters during the half-day session included the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers, The Fred Rummel Foundation and The Center for Non-profits.

Following the formal presentations, attendees were able to connect with different agencies at information tables to ask questions.

From left: Eileen Morales, Grants Manager for the NJ State Library, Leigh Clark, Business & Funding Information Librarian.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

In June 2018, NJSL teamed up with LibraryLinkNJ to host Youth Mental Health First Aid USA, an eight hour public education program designed to introduce librarians to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, build understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teach how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge.

The classes used role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect young people to professional, peer, social and self-help care. The two-day training was offered at two locations.

SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

The State Library worked with the New Jersey "Division of Taxation's Taxation University" to bring business training to local libraries. Workshops took place from October 2017 to June 2018 at libraries across New Jersey to educate local business owners and entrepreneurs about starting and registering businesses in the state.

Sessions covered topics such as: How to Start a Small Business in New Jersey; The Fundamentals of New Jersey Sales Tax; Construction Trades and New Jersey Tax; Online Businesses and New Jersey Tax; and Photography and New Jersey Tax.

STATE LIBRARY AWARDS

New Jersey State Librarian Mary Chute honored seven New Jersey libraries for conducting outstanding early literacy and multicultural programs during this year's State Librarian's Breakfast at the New Jersey Library Association Annual Conference, where Dr. Merodie Hancock, president of Thomas Edison State University, was in attendance.

Each winning library received a certificate and a monetary award. Best Practices in Early Literacy winning libraries were: Ocean City Library, Scotch Plains Library, and South Plainfield Library. Best Practices in Multicultural Programing winning libraries were: Red Bank Library, Maplewood Memorial Library, South Orange Library, and New Brunswick Library.

NJSL WON FOUR MARKETING & PR AWARDS

The New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) selected NJSL to receive an NJLA Public Relations and Marketing Award. The NJSL Communications, Marketing & Outreach team was honored at the NJLA Annual Conference during an awards ceremony held at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City, NJ, on May 31.

NJSL also won three ASTRA Awards from the NJ Communications, Advertising and Marketing Association. The NJSL team was recognized on Thursday, June 14, at Jasna Polana in Princeton, NJ.

Edward O'Neil presentation to librarians at Monmouth County Library, Manalapan.

NJ LIBRARIANS RECEIVE ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

Based on requests from library staff across the state, the New Jersey State Library held three active shooter training classes in July. Instructors covered preparedness, evaluating your library's strengths and weaknesses, and how to draft an active shooter plan.

NEW JERSEY DIGITAL NEWSPAPER PROJECT

The New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project (NJDNP) received an additional round of funding in the amount of $219,609 to digitize historical New Jersey newspapers and make them available to the public via the Library of Congress's "Chronicling America" website.

The NJDNP—a collaboration between Rutgers University Libraries, the New Jersey State Archives, and the New Jersey State Library—is part of the National Digital Newspaper Program, a long-term effort to develop a searchable online database of U.S. newspapers from all 50 states. Since the New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project began in 2016, over 100,000 pages of historical newspapers have been scanned and digitized from microfilm originally held by the New Jersey State Archives.

2018 STATEWIDE SUMMER READING PROGRAM

In 2018, 314,790 New Jerseyans of all ages participated in the Statewide Summer Reading Program and read 3,274,119 books. There were over 35,000 activity programs offered, with over 719,000 young people and adults attending these programs.

"Music" was the theme for this year's summer reading program for all ages. The early literacy and children's artwork was designed by Brian Pinkney, author-illustrator of *Max Found Two Sticks, JoJo's Flying Side Kick,* and *The Adventures of Sparrowboy*, among other books, including many with his wife Andrea Davis Pinkney. Artist Larry Jones did the artwork for the teen and adult programs.

Secret Agent 23 Skidoo (purple velvet tuxedo wearing international family funk and hip-hop musician), 2017 Grammy-winner for Infinity Plus One for Best Children's Album, was the national spokesperson for the summer reading program.

LIBRARY JOURNAL'S DESIGN INSTITUTE

In anticipation of New Jersey's Library Construction Bond Act guidelines, *Library Journal*, in partnership with the Cherry Hill Public Library, the New Jersey Library Association and the New Jersey State Library, hosted an all-day library building and design event on Friday, September 28. Architects, vendors and over 100 librarians came together to discuss topics ranging from building a new library to renovating or retrofitting existing spaces, both large and small, to better serve the needs of the community.

LIBRARY EQUAL ACCESS PROGRAM (LEAP)

Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver made a special visit to the library she loved as a child to cut the ribbon launching the Library Equal Access Program service for the visually impaired at the Newark Public Library. At the October 9 ceremony, she was joined by Carole Johnson, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Human Services, Dr. Bernice Davis, Acting Executive Director of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI), Mary Chute, NJ State Librarian, and Adam Szczepaniak, Deputy State Librarian and Director of the NJ State Library Talking Book & Braille Center.

Mary Chute, NJ State Librarian, Sheila Oliver, NJ Lt. Governor.

The celebration ceremony was part of a series of events by CBVI in October as it marked Blindness Awareness Month, which aims to recognize the residents of New Jersey who are blind and vision impaired, as well as inform the public about good eye health.

LIBRARY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The 2018-2019 New Jersey State Library sponsored Leadership Academy held its first session on October 18, offering librarians who registered for the eight-part series of classes the opportunity to think big and creatively about their libraries.

All sessions will be held monthly through May 2019 at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters, Manalapan. The series, which was open to librarians with at least five years experience, includes presentations by speakers on such varied topics as marketing and branding your library, emerging technologies for libraries and a hands-on training on how to perform a community needs assessment.

From left: Mary Chute, NJ State Librarian, Peggy Cadigan, Deputy State Librarian for Innovation & Strategic Partnerships, Kathleen Moeller Peiffer, Deputy State Librarian for Library Support Services.

ADULT SERVICES FORUM

A full day covering topics of interest to adult library patrons was presented to over 60 librarians during the 9th Adult Services Forum held at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters, Manalapan, on October 22. The keynote speaker was Lee Price, Director of Development for the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts.

Nicholas Van Dorn, Nutley Library

TRUSTEE INSTITUTE

Over 200 library trustees, administrators and directors from across New Jersey came together on a windswept rainy day at the National Conference Center at the Holiday Inn of East Windsor on Saturday, October 27, for the biennial New Jersey Library Trustee Institute.

The topic of this 11th edition of the Institute was "Planning for Innovation" and featured a keynote presentation by Annie Norman, State Librarian and Director of the Delaware Division of Libraries, and Diana Brown, Community Services Manager of New Castle County. They discussed the importance of the master planning process for library capital projects and how it has facilitated state funding of libraries in Delaware.

Patricia Pavlak, President of the NJLTA, gives opening remarks.

Cheryl B. Filipak.

YOUTH SERVICES FORUM

The 28th Annual Youth Services Forum, *Keepin' It Fresh*, sponsored by NJLA, the State Library and the New Jersey Association of School Librarians, was held on Monday, October 29, at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters, Manalapan. Keynote address was given by children's book author Cheryl B. Filipak, writer of *Saving Streak: A Sea World Rescue Story*, who took the audience of over 160 children and young adult librarians back to the story times of their youth. She held a book signing after her session.

LIBRARIES, ACCELERATION, AND THE REALITY SPECTRUM

"Libraries, Acceleration and the Reality Spectrum", was a professional development workshop for librarians. Two half-day segments, held in November, provided an overview of the challenges and opportunities that accelerating technological and social change raise for libraries, along with a set of tools for managing these challenges and leveraging these opportunities.

Phil Bowermaster, library futurist and previous speaker at the 2017 Library Futures Conference, presented a full day, interactive workshop for all librarians interested in learning how they can help play a role in the exciting future of their library.

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Institute of Museum and Library Services.
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