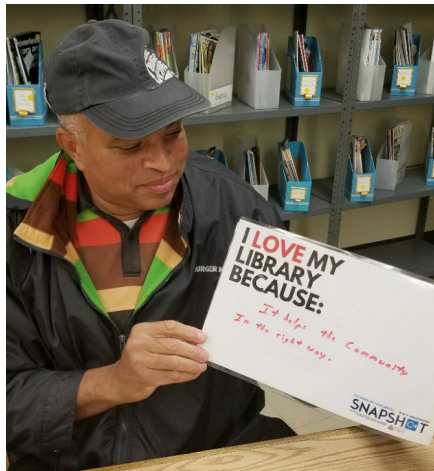
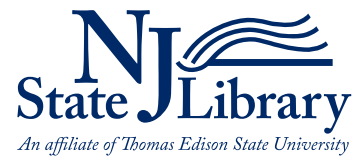


SHARED SERVICES

OCTOBER 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021



\$2.36 million is needed to fully fund our New Jersey Library Network at its previously budgeted amount of \$4.29 million. We received \$1.93 million in Governor Murphy's 3-month budget and need \$2.36 million in the 9-month budget to make this line whole. The Network provides shared services including the statewide delivery of materials and supports JerseyConnect, the statewide library technology infrastructure backbone which provides internet services throughout New Jersey. Funding is needed to expand training opportunities for library staff who are now providing a new range of virtual services to support education and economic development opportunities.

Statewide Library Delivery

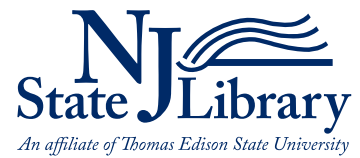
This is an excellent example of a shared service which is even more critical during the current COVID-19 crisis, when people are restricting their travel. Our delivery system transports materials to libraries representing every county in the state, so residents may borrow an item and have it delivered to their home library. COVID-19 safety precautions have been instituted at New Jersey's libraries, with all items being quarantined between uses.

- This includes **5.5 million items** transported through this **critical statewide delivery system**.
- **Without sharing**, these materials would have been purchased at an **estimated cost of \$110 million**.
- Interlibrary delivery **expenses have increased by 50%** while **funding has remained flat**.

Connecting people with information through libraries

SHARED SERVICES

OCTOBER 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021



In the age of COVID-19, libraries have pivoted to offering many services virtually, putting an even greater burden on our libraries' aging technology infrastructure. New Jersey residents need access to a strong, reliable library technology network in order to utilize the valuable online information resources provided by New Jersey's libraries.

Bridging the Digital Divide

New Jersey's libraries quickly transitioned to virtual ways of offering traditional and new library services to continue to meet the needs of our communities during the pandemic.

- This includes the use of **remote meeting platforms** to help customers learn to use new technologies to **download e-books and audiobooks** and to **access valuable online resources**.
- The **New Jersey Library Network** offers training to librarians to enable them to assist their customers in the use of new technologies quickly and efficiently.
- Network funds are **needed for a critical upgrade of JerseyConnect, the statewide library technology infrastructure, which provides reliable core internet connectivity and related services to more than 300 library locations.**

In a different budget environment, this is the time that we would be asking to increase this line item in order to take advantage of the exponential increase in opportunities for resource sharing among libraries. This line item has been flat funded for 30 years. Given the current environment in which we find ourselves, the library community is prepared to continue doing the good work we have been doing, if we can maintain this baseline funding.

Connecting people with information through libraries