NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY UPDATE – January 2022

Happy New Year! I hope that your holiday season brought you some measure of comfort and joy. Refreshed for the new year, I’m excited about the work happening at the New Jersey State Library. From the NJSL + Partners Literacy Project to the Telehealth project, we’re doing our best to make sure that New Jersey’s residents have access to the tools, information and resources they need to thrive.

On January 12, Governor Murphy signed bill A-6148/S-4221, which appropriates $37,174,636.71 from New Jersey Library Construction Fund. The second solicitation was highly competitive with 105 applications received of which 36 projects were recommended for funding.

While our plate is pretty full, we’re also on the look out for new ways to partner with local libraries and state agencies to benefit libraries. Drop me a note if you have an idea to share.

Jen Nelson, State Librarian

State Library Information Center
Press releases from Governor Whitman located via the Wayback Machine are being added to the New Jersey State Publications Digital Library. Legislative hearings, Governor Murphy’s executive orders, and State Auditor reports were also added to keep those collections up-to-date.

Upcoming Virtual Classes and Programs
NJSL classes are open to all, check out our events calendar: https://www.njstatelib.org/events

Talking Book and Braille Center
Public libraries will soon be receiving a survey on services to the deaf and hard of hearing population. In December, over 24,000 audiobooks were produced in-house. Downloading by patrons using the BARD database topped 7,000 books which included slightly over 1,700 volumes in electronic Braille. Additionally, TBBC has a new patron application approved by NLS which includes new guidelines for certifying individuals and electronic options for sending the application to them.

Lifelong Learning
Library Directors and Trustee Virtual Check-Ins: The monthly check-in for Library Directors will be held on January 18, at 2:00 PM, and the monthly Trustee check-in will be on January 20, at 2:00 PM. Registration information was sent to library directors via our NJPubLibs listserv.


NJSL Digital Literacy Forum: Vital Conversations about Digital Literacy in NJ Libraries: NJSL’s Virtual Digital Literacy Forum, on May 10-13, 2022, will foster an open environment for NJ libraries to expand
capacity in response to digital literacy needs in their communities. Further details will be forthcoming. For inquiries, contact Mimi Lee at mlee@njstatelib.org.

NJSL+Partners Literacy Project: We are aiming at early Spring (March/April) to start registering students and offering IC3 classes and lab services which will continue through the summer 2022. For details, visit: https://www.njstatelib.org/njsl-partners-literacy-project. For inquiries, contact Mimi Lee at mlee@njstatelib.org.

Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment for New Jersey Libraries: Northstar is a preeminent tool for helping people understand their digital literacy skills and needs, and has curriculum available for designing digital literacy classes. NJSL has made it available for New Jersey libraries on a pilot basis through September 2022. There are currently 43 public libraries participating in Northstar. Seventeen more licenses are available. For inquiries, contact Mimi Lee at mlee@njstatelib.org.

NJCAR Webinar: Disaster Planning for Libraries & Cultural Institutions: Michele Stricker will moderate an NJCAR webinar on disaster planning on February 15, 2:00-4:00 PM. The presenter will be Ellen Korpar, a LYRISIS Emergency Preparedness consultant. Register here: https://bit.ly/3K5aNEm

March 2022 Summer Reading Workshops: The Statewide Summer Reading Committee has scheduled the dates for the 2022 Summer Reading Workshops. All workshops will start at 10 am. Registration will open in February. Dates are: Friday, March 4th at Livingston Public Library; Friday, March 11th (virtual workshop); and Monday, March 21st at Gloucester County Library, Mullica Hill.


Kentucky Dept. for Libraries & Archives: Michele Stricker will present a webinar on disaster planning and continuity of operations on Jan. 27, at 2 PM. The following topics will be covered: general preparedness resources and guidelines; creating Disaster and COOP plans; focus on a Continuity of Operations plan; and planning for long vs. short term disruptions.

Information Services Today Webcast for San Jose State University: Michele Stricker will join Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Executive Director of the Mid Hudson Library System to discuss the book chapter they co-authored titled, “Disaster Preparedness and Community Resiliency”, on February 4, 10:00 AM.

Library Support Services
On January 10, 2022, the statewide RFQ for online electronic resources was sent to over twenty potential bidders. In addition, volunteers were recruited to serve on the database advisory committee. The Annual Survey launches on Tuesday, January 18th. By the end of the month documents will be sent to all public libraries detailing what their population based minimum standards are for the next 10 years given the new census population figures.