NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY UPDATE – February 2022

We are trying to figure out the best way to share information with all of you – and find the sweet spot between items that inform, invite or involve the library community, while also keeping this update short and to the point. Please take a moment and let me know how you think we’re doing and what information you’d like to hear about from us. Needless to say, we have a lot going on, some of which may be of interest, others, not so much.

We are just starting the Library Services and Technology Act Five Year Plan development process, and you may be asked to complete a survey or participate in a focus group. If asked, we hope you’ll spend a few minutes reflecting on how we can best support libraries across the state with our federal funds. And thank you if you participated in the recent evaluation – our report will be complete by the end of March.

Jen Nelson, State Librarian

Stay Informed

The State Library and Information Center’s New Jersey Collections librarians digitized thirteen volumes of the official proceedings of the 1966 New Jersey Constitutional Convention, plus associated hearings and documents over the last month. The content is now available on our online platform and can be accessed here: [https://bit.ly/33hgmPC](https://bit.ly/33hgmPC).

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 forthcoming. For inquiries, contact Mimi Lee at [mlee@njstatelib.org](mailto:mlee@njstatelib.org).

Beginning in March, 2022 the Spring session of TBBC’s Library Equal Access Program (LEAP) will be held at seven New Jersey libraries. The libraries are the Cherry Hill Public Library, the East Brunswick Public Library, the Johnson Public Library in Hackensack, the Toms River branch of the Ocean County Public Library, the Newark Public Library, the Atlantic City Public Library and State Library’s Talking Book & Braille Center. Learn more at: [https://www.njstatelib.org/news/leap/](https://www.njstatelib.org/news/leap/).

You’re Invited

The Office of Representative Andy Kim invited Leigh Clark, Funding Information librarian, to participate in a Grants Panel webinar that will be held in early March. The webinar will cover how to maximize your efforts to be successful when researching and applying for Foundation Grants. While the event is geared towards organizations serving NJ’s 3rd Congressional district, registration is open to anyone: [https://www.njstatelib.org/nj03/](https://www.njstatelib.org/nj03/).
See NJSL’s events calendar for upcoming virtual classes and programs, including two Black History Month author talks in February: [https://www.njstatelib.org/events](https://www.njstatelib.org/events).

The 2022 Summer Reading Workshops for public library staff are scheduled. Two workshops will be in person (depending on the current pandemic situation) and one will be virtual. All workshops will start at 10 am.

- Friday, March 4\(^{th}\) - Livingston Public Library (in person)
- Friday, March 11\(^{th}\) - virtual workshop
- Monday, March 21\(^{st}\) - Gloucester County Library, Mullica Hill (in person)

Registration will open February 14, 2022 on the NJ Summer Reading website: [https://njsummerreading.org/workshops/](https://njsummerreading.org/workshops/) You must be subscribed to the website to access the workshop registration page.

**Get Involved**

A survey of library services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community has been sent to the director of each public library in New Jersey. This survey was designed by the State Library and the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The results will be presented at the annual meeting of the New Jersey Library Association in June. We’re excited about this new partnership and the opportunity to help more people take advantage of library services. For library directors who would like to take the survey, please visit: [https://bit.ly/366fLkP](https://bit.ly/366fLkP).

NJ public library staff are encouraged to submit suggestions for the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP)’s Slogan for the 2025 program (theme is Art) and 2026 Theme. Slogans are short, catchy phrases like “Tails and Tales” for the Animal theme. Themes are broader categories like Space, Music, etc. Please suggest up to five catchy slogans and themes for the all age programs that work for early literacy, children, teens, and adults. Please post your suggestions on this Jamboard [https://bit.ly/3BgLxXN](https://bit.ly/3BgLxXN) by February 25, 2022.