NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY UPDATE
April 2022

State Librarian

I wanted to provide you a short update on a couple of upcoming opportunities. We’ve received our FY 2022 LSTA allotment from IMLS; funds are available to use through September 2023. We’ve received just over $4.3 million. Of that, we’ll be making a portion available to libraries through a competitive grant process, in addition to supporting Jersey Clicks, Jersey Cat and Jersey Connect. We will also be running a Tischler grant opportunity exclusively for small libraries later this spring. More to come on those in the coming weeks.

We’re in the early stages of working with the NJ Office of Innovation, NJLA and LLNJ on a statewide-back-to-the-library campaign to coincide with National Library Card Sign Up Month in September. Be on the lookout for more information. Our intent is to provide you with helpful marketing tools to get people back in your library.

I hope you’ll join us at the annual NJLA conference on June 2 for a special Thursday session we’re hosting that features R. David Lankes. Dr. Lankes’ work is familiar to many of us, plus he’s a New Jersey native who teaches in the library school at the University of Texas-Austin. His talk promises to be either provocative, or inspiring, or perhaps both! And on Friday, June 3, please join NJSLS staff for a continental breakfast. We’d love the chance to say hello in person after such a long hiatus.

Jen

Stay Informed

The New Jersey Northstar User Group met on April 5 to discuss their experiences implementing and using Northstar. Alexander Byrd from Cumberland County Library also spoke about creating community partnerships. The shared Google Document includes links to this and the first User Group meeting along with notes from what was discussed: https://docs.google.com/document/d/15BEC1pLzztXwzmn3OY22i9eqiTKeKjXZWD_NLiAh8WT8/edit?usp=sharing

Thirty years of 19th century New Jersey Pilotage reports were recently digitized onsite at the State Library. https://dspace.njstatelib.org/xmlui/handle/10929/46261

The E-resources review committee is working hard to evaluate vendor responses and make the best possible recommendations for the next three-year Jersey Clicks contracts.
A new LSTA five-year plan (2023-2027) is being developed. Thank you to everyone who spoke with our consultant and provided feedback. Next up, a team from the State Library will be working with the consultant to develop goals and outcomes for the plan that align with the Library Services and Technology Act priorities.

We are hiring! The Talking Book and Braille Center has posted a reader services’ position for a Spanish speaking individual to help serve our Hispanic population and assist in outreach activities. Luz Sanchez who worked in this position for 31 years will be retiring at the end of May. More information on this position and the application can be found at: https://workforcenow.adp.com/mascsr/default/mdf/recruitment/recruitment.html?cid=6b10b893-8f23-4a9a-ab12-e3a23d442b7a&ccId=19000101_000001&type=MP&lang=en_US

You’re Invited

The Virtual Digital Literacy Forum, hosted by the State Library will be held May 10-13, 2022, 10 am – 12 pm each day to foster an open and encouraging environment for New Jersey libraries to expand capacity in response to digital literacy needs in their communities. Join your colleagues to learn and converse. https://www.njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/lifelong-learning/njsl-digital-literacy-forum/

Registration for State Library’s upcoming classes and programs, including author talks on The Red Thread: the Passaic Textile Strike and The Franklin Park Tragedy: A Forgotten Story of Racial Injustice in New Jersey are available through our website. https://www.njstatelib.org/events

Virtual classes: The Truth about Anxiety, April 26, 12-1 pm; Fundraising during Uncertain Times, April 27, 11 am -12:30 pm; Cancer Screening Information Session, May 4, 12-1 pm. are also on our events page.

Get Involved

NJS, NJLA and LLNJ invite you to sign up to lead or participate in any of the following Equity Diversity and Inclusion working groups:
- Policy Assessment
- Collection Development
- Hiring Practices Leadership
- Development
- Training

To nominate yourself or someone else to participate in any of the areas listed above, please reach out to Ralph Bingham (ralph@librarylinknj.org), Juliet Machie (jmachie@njla.org) or Jen Nelson (jnelson@njstatelib.org).

The incorporation of social-work-informed library services has become a powerful movement in the United States. To date, little research has been done to evaluate this trend in New Jersey libraries. In collaboration with the Long Branch Free Public Library, we are conducting this survey to establish baseline data on the employment of social workers and a foundation for future study on the provision of social services in NJ public libraries. Thank you for participating in this survey. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X38NLTP