NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY UPDATE
June 2022

State Librarian

Thanks to everyone who came to NJSL sessions at the conference. It was fun to see people in person, and I’m thinking we need to make the State Librarian’s Breakfast a little more of a celebration next year. We are still waiting to hear from David Lankes if the recording of his session worked out or not.

We’re finalizing contracts with vendors for statewide e-resources; new contracts start July 1. With limited funding available and after an analysis of use, we chose not to renew contracts with Brain Fuse (which had been funded with ARPA) and Rosetta Stone (through Ebsco).

The Library Construction Bond Act crossed a new milestone this week, with the opening of the first library built/reconstructed under Round 1. Congratulations to the Somerset County Library System on its new Montgomery branch. It is a really well-designed and inviting building. I’m looking forward to seeing other projects come to fruition over the summer and into the fall.

Lots of exciting things are happening in New Jersey’s libraries this summer, and it is a pleasure to be a part of some of them, as you’ll read below.

Jen Nelson, State Librarian

Stay Informed:

Digital Literacy Forum

If you were unable to attend a specific session of the Digital Literacy Forum that took place in May, recordings are now available: https://www.njstatelib.org/spotlight_items/njsl-digital-literacy-forum/

Northstar Digital Literacy

The New Jersey Northstar Library User Group has been meeting over the past four months, with the last meeting held on June 9. Anyone interested in learning more about Northstar can contact the New Jersey State Library (northstar@njstatelib.org). Recording links and notes from the User Group meetings are available by request. Northstar is used by over 2615 Adult Basic Education programs, colleges, nonprofits, workforce centers, government agencies, and businesses nationwide, including 60 public libraries in New Jersey with
licenses provided by the New Jersey State Library using funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, through the American Rescue Plan Act. More information can be found on the Northstar website (https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/).

**Summer Reading**

Promote your library’s Summer Reading Program “Oceans of Possibilities.” Don’t forget to promote what you’re doing with everyone in your community! Here is some information you might want to share with kids and families to encourage them to join your summer program:

Summer programs at public libraries in New Jersey offer creative, fun, and FREE ways to build a love for reading and learning for all ages. The program is funded by the NJ State Library using NJ Network funds. Libraries offer prizes for meeting reading goals, in-person and online activities, and even opportunities to explore local NJ communities. Programs typically take place during June, July and August. Check your local library for their dates and how to register for the program. Here are five ways to promote your summer reading program to community members of all ages to get them to read, learn, and have fun through your local library this summer. If you have any questions, contact the statewide summer reading coordinator Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, NJ State Library, srawlins@njstatelib.org

**Social Work Informed Library Services**

Social Work Informed Library Services in NJ (SWILIB-NJ) is in the planning phase. The project aims at strengthening public libraries’ capacity in providing social work informed library services for their communities by utilizing the knowledge and skills brought by social work student interns, and also to provide support/guidance/mentorship necessary for them to fulfill their internship and career goals while working at their library sites. We plan on developing professional development curricula and training for both interns and library site supervisors which will include skills building for digital literacy and community engagement. For more information, please contact Mimi Lee, Director of Literacy and Learning, mlee@njstatelib.org

**NJS Librarians Updates**

Congratulations to Natasha Zaleski, who was appointed the Vice-President/President Elect of the NJLA Technical Services and Collection Development Section, and will take office on July 1, 2022.

Casey Confoy is working with Auto-graphics to streamline the interlibrary loan processes on Jersey CAT.

Join us in congratulating Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer, Deputy State Librarian, on her well-deserved retirement. Her last day with NJS is June 30, 2022.

We also wish Margaret Nizolek, Chief Deputy State Librarian/SLIC Director, also retiring on June 30 the best as she starts her next chapter.
**NJS L Talking Book & Braille Center**

The Talking Book and Braille Center total circulation topped 32,000 (32,111). In-house cartridge production included 133 books on 18 cartridges and 25,820 books on 3,760 cartridges. For BARD, 6,137 items were downloaded including 339 volumes in Braille. There were 133 new registrations. TBBC held/participated in 30 outreach activities, including presentations at NJLA. At the NLS national conference, TBBC staff were on a panel for reading disabilities.

**You’re Invited:**

**Upcoming NJS L Events**

Registration for the State Library’s upcoming classes and programs is available through our website at [https://www.njstatelib.org/events](https://www.njstatelib.org/events). The next author talk will be You are Here: A New Jersey Travel Guide, will be held on July 12, from 12-1 pm.

Virtual classes also on our events page includes: Finding Grant Funding with Foundation Directory, July 7 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

The 2022 NJLibsGrowBiz Summit will be held virtually on September 15, 2022. This mini-conference is focused on the value libraries bring to the small business owners and entrepreneurs in their communities. Speakers will provide insight on the role libraries can play in economic development and share creative ways libraries can start or grow their business outreach and services. This year’s keynote will be Samira Cook Gaines, Managing Director of Strategic Partnerships at Rising Tide Capital, a nonprofit dedicated to fostering inclusive communities of resilient entrepreneurs catalyzing a thriving and sustainable economy for all. Questions and feedback can be shared with Andrea Levandowski ([alevandowski@njstatelib.org](mailto:alevandowski@njstatelib.org)).

The Virtual Trustee Institute will take place on Saturday, October 8, 2022, featuring programs on Library Law, Strategic Planning, Capital Planning, Hiring a New Director, Censorship and Book Challenges, EDI for Library Boards, and more.