State Librarian’s Update- September 2022

New Jersey’s 2021 Public Library Survey (PLS) data has been submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Thank you to all of the public libraries that completed it - we know it takes time. Library services in the state are on the rebound in 2021 as compared to 2020. Notable data points include an 18% increase in library visits (to 15,218,120) and an increase of 31% in reference transactions (to 3,348,839). Total circulation increased to 39,541,755 and use of electronic materials was 7,990,680. Program attendance appears to have dropped, but there was a change in how we collected the data which may account for that. Also, on the decline were the use of public internet computers (-4%) and wireless sessions (-36%).

In the recent LSTA grant opportunity, NJSL awarded 16 grants, just over $200,000 to support literacy projects across the state. The grant round was competitive – with 55 applicants requesting over $700,000 in awards. Congratulations to those who received an award.

Jen Nelson, State Librarian

Stay Informed:

NJ/DE Digital Collective
The New Jersey State Library is excited to announce that over 180,000 items from the NJ/DE Digital Collective are now currently discoverable in the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). The NJ/DE Digital Collective is a program of the New Jersey State Library and the Delaware Division of Libraries. There are currently 10 contributors representing 29 organizations across Delaware and New Jersey.

Submissions include a diverse array of materials from participating cultural heritage institutions across the two states, from the "Avenues of Newark: Memories of the Central Ward" collection submitted by Rutgers University Libraries, which is a collection of photographs taken by Rutgers-Newark Professor Emerita, Beatrice Tabatchnick Seagull, to the J. Victor Dallin Aerial Survey collection from the Hagley Museum.

Interested in adding your digital collections to the NJ/DE Collective for inclusion in DPLA? The Outreach and Marketing committee will be recruiting new members soon. Look for an announcement in NJSL Direct and other State Library outreach. For more information, please contact Deborah Mercer, New Jersey Collections Librarian, at dmercer@njstatelib.org.
October is National Family History Month
The State Library has an extensive collection of genealogy resources, webinars, and handouts on our Genealogy LibGuide that can help patrons with their family history research.

Update from JerseyConnect
JerseyConnect staff is evaluating potential replacements for GoSecure, the current spam and email filtering solution used by over 5,600 email customers. The current contract ends in Spring 2023 and JerseyConnect staff will compare the current product against competitors to ensure we are offering the best possible service for our email customers.

Social Work Informed Library Services in NJ (SWILIBS-NJ)
SWILIBS-NJ is in the planning phase. The project aims at strengthening the 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. There will be a statewide convening to gauge interest from the library community in participating in this program, as well as to make connections between the two fields (library and social work) in the coming months. For more information, please contact Mimi Lee, Director of Literacy and Learning, mlee@njstatelib.org

CSLP 2025 Slogan and 2026 Theme Decided
As the NJ state representative for the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, attended the CSLP Annual Meeting in Detroit, MI at the end of August. CSLP is working one and a half to two years in advance on the themes and slogans for upcoming years. After all the participating states voted, the slogan “Color Our World” won. It ties into the 2025 all ages Art theme. The winner of the theme for 2026 for all ages is Dinosaurs. The 2023 theme is Kindness and the slogan is “All Together Now.” The 2024 theme is Adventure and the slogan is “Adventure Begins at Your Library.”

Updates from TBBC
LEAP (Library Equal Access Program) classes are beginning in mid-September for beginning instruction, and late October for intermediate classes. LEAP provides free classes for individuals with low vision who want to learn about the assistive tools available on iPhones and iPads. Classes are held at: Atlantic City Public Library, Cherry Hill Public Library, East Brunswick Public Library, Johnson Public Library (Hackensack), Newark Public Library, Ocean County Library Toms River Toms River and TBBC.

Celebrate NJSL Talking Book & Braille Library’s 55th anniversary. For 55 years, TBBC has been providing services and accessible books to New Jersey residents who are blind or print disabled. To celebrate this anniversary, there will be a Webinar on September 30th between 12 noon and 1 pm. Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ktmyLSouTU-OmfcsukLWOQ. A recording of the webinar will be available on the NJSL YouTube channel.

TBBC will hold its Fall Festival at The Grounds for Sculpture on October 15. More information at: https://www.njstatelib.org/news/fall-festival-2022-save-the-date/
You’re Invited:

**NJSL Presents**
NJSL will host a webinar on Sept 21st titled The Social History of New Jersey’s Asylums. This presentation explores the digitized collection of the annual reports of New Jersey’s State Asylums with a fascinating look back on how patients lived and were cared for from 1847-1950s.

**Trustee Institute**
The bi-annual Trustee Institute will be held virtually on October 8, 9:00-4:00. Topics include EDI for Library Boards, Hiring Your Library Director, Censorship and Book Challenges, Writing Strategic and Capital Plans, and Library Law. Registration is open now at www.njstatelib.org/trusteeinstitute.

**Join a CSLP Committee**
Youth Services staff from NJ public libraries are invited to join a CSLP Committee. Sign-ups for 2023 are open until October 3, 2022. While the duties vary, committee obligations generally run for one calendar year. All committee work is done virtually; either through email, or through phone or online meetings. Attending the CSLP Annual Meeting is not required. For more information, please visit: https://www.cslpreads.org/join-a-cslp-committee/.

**NJLibsGrowBiz**
The 2022 NJLibsGrowBiz Summit was held virtually on September 15, 2022. This mini-conference was focused on the value libraries bring to the small business owners and entrepreneurs in their communities. Recordings are available on the New Jersey State Library’s website: www.njstatelib.org/njlibsgrowbiz

Librarians looking for additional opportunities to learn how to support their local business and entrepreneurial communities are welcome to participate in the following NJLibsGrowBiz events:
- October 6 from 10:00-11:30am: Census Data for Entrepreneurs
- November 17 from 10:00-11:00am: Virtual Discussion: NJ business organizations and growing partnerships
- December 8 from 10:00-11:00am: Virtual Discussion: How to make the most of statewide databases

For more information and to register, visit: www.njstatelib.org/njlibsgrowbiz

**NJ Dept of Health Supplies Narcan to Public Libraries**
The NJ Department of Human Services is supplying naloxone (brand name Narcan) for free to fight the opioid epidemic as part of the new Overdose Prevention Act, the goal of which being to ensure that opioid antidotes be made as easily accessible and as widely available as possible. This naloxone can be used by staff in the event of a patron having an overdose in the library or to distribute in general. Click here to register for the program. View the information sheet here. Libraries are able to participate in New Jersey’s Naloxone Distribution Program to receive free doses of naloxone: https://dmhas.dhs.state.nj.us/NDP. Any questions, contact Naloxone@dhs.nj.gov.
Free Naloxone Training provided by Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, will be held on October 4 and October 20, 2022 from 1:00-2:30pm (please only select one date). Link to register: https://freenaloxonetrainingoctober2022.eventbrite.com.

The training will cover overdose death prevention strategies including the appropriate administration of naloxone and rescue breathing. Attendees will each receive one naloxone kit that will be mailed to them via UPS after the session. Please note that the session will NOT be recorded.

The NJ State Library is coordinating this informational program in an effort to facilitate discussion and learning around this topic. The decision to receive a naloxone kit is solely at the discretion of the individual library. If you would like to be notified about future training offered by the NJSL, please contact Andrea Levandowski, alevandowski@njstatelib.org.

**Libraries as Launchpads**

Would you like your library to be a hub for innovation and creativity? Do you want to offer more resources, programs, or connections to support local entrepreneurs? Do you have a vision of your library contributing to your local economy but aren’t sure where to start? If so, the Libraries as Launchpads program might be right for you! The New Jersey State Library is partnering with Creative Startups to offer a free certification course for up to five NJ library staff members, with an additional opportunity for select libraries to receive hands-on training and support to bring their entrepreneurship hub to life. Learn more here: https://www.njstatelib.org/news/libraries-as-launchpads/.