State Librarian’s Update
October 2022

Stay Informed:

State Library Information Center (SLIC) Updates

Teri Taylor was named the new Associate Director of SLIC. She will lead key library services and programs in the unit, and work collaboratively with library staff to increase the visibility and promote the value of the Library to state government departments and officials. For more, go [here](#).

Civil Service test exam books purchased by the State Library are now available to public library borrowers through eLibraryNJ.

SLIC has been awarded a grant from the National Archives and Records Administration for a project titled “Telling New Jersey’s Untold Stories.” The grant will be used to purchase book scanning equipment in order to scan historic collections at the State Library, including content from the New Jersey Court of Errors and Appeals, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey materials, and publications related to land use and development in New Jersey.

The Newark Public Library offered up historic volumes of the Senate Journal and Assembly Minutes, which SLIC gratefully accepted in order to unbind and scan for inclusion in their New Jersey Digital Publications collection.

Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC) Updates

Circulation remains high with 25,306 titles circulated and 6,030 titles downloaded from the BARD database by patrons. TBBC has added 103 new patrons.

On September 30th, TBBC presented a webinar on the 55th anniversary of the library. A recording of the event can be viewed [here](#).

Statistics for 2022 Summer Reading Program

This was the 4th year that CSLP member states have joined together to send out the same survey with customized questions for each state. If anyone wasn’t able to submit their responses before the national CSLP survey closed September 9th, Statewide Summer Reading Coordinator Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, NJ State Library, copied the survey. The link can be accessed [here](#). Please submit your statistics as soon as possible! Thank you.
2022 totals for all ages so far:

# of children, teens and adults who participated = 96,770 (compared to 80,328 in 2021)
# of children, teens and adults who achieved their goal = 57,233 (compared to 45,883 in 2021)
# of themed events offered (for J/YA/A) = 22,987 (compared to 18,016 in 2021)
# of attendees (J/YA/A) at events = 464,602 (compared to 342,461 in 2021)

Books Read Totals (optional to answer, since some libraries counted minutes instead):
Children = 985,988
Teens = 67,859
Adults = 86,635
Total = 1,140,482 (compared to 606,290 in 2021)

The final count for Summer Reading at NJSL’s Talking Book & Braille Center was 34 participants with 14 Braille readers.

**You’re Invited:**

**NJSL Presents Events**

November is Family History Month. Join NJSL on Nov 1st for the program *Introduction to Obtaining Italian Citizenship Via Descent (Jure Sanguinis)*, presented by Ben Saracco, Research and Digital Services Faculty Librarian at Rowan University.

Learn about *New Jersey and the War of 1812* with historian Harvey Strum on Nov. 2nd.

Leigh Clark, NJSL’s Funding Information Librarian, presents “Finding Grant Funding with Foundation Directory”. Training attendees will be issued temporary credentials to sign in to Foundation Directory remotely in order to follow along with the webinar. Those credentials will be good for 48 hours following the training.

College age students and their parents are encouraged to attend *Financial Aid Information Session* with Samantha Benson, a representative from the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority on Nov. 18th.

**NJLibsGrowBiz**

NJLibsGrowBiz is facilitated by the New Jersey State Library to increase the capacity of New Jersey libraries to meet the needs of their business communities. Join us for our upcoming virtual discussions! View a list of upcoming events [here](#).

**Get Involved:**

**NJ Makerspace Survey**

Please add your library to the scan of maker activities and makerspaces in New Jersey public libraries!

This survey will document making and makerspaces in public libraries and how libraries play a role in supporting teens and new adults (ages 18-24) as innovators, entrepreneurs, designers, and problem solvers with real world impact. The survey is designed to learn from public library staff about what is valuable and what is needed. NJ State Library will use what is learned to develop professional learning opportunities for NJ public library staff, including best practices in utilizing makerspaces and supporting teen innovation and community impact. Please fill out this brief survey. It should take no more than 10 minutes. [Learn more and access the survey here](#).