State Librarian’s Update
January 2023

2023 has started off with a whirlwind of activities. I was pleased to help the South River Library celebrate its centennial on January 12, and to attend the Governor’s State of the State address at the General Assembly Chamber and a reception at the Governor’s Office that followed on January 10. More library visits are on the horizon and I’m looking forward to seeing some of our newly built/renovated libraries.

NJSL submitted a joint application for an Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach Grant with the NJ Department of Health. We’re excited about the possible partnership and should know by early March if we receive funds. The project would allow us to work with the Department of Health to sign people up for the Affordable Connectivity Program all across the state, taking advantage of community locations such as federally qualified health centers, public libraries, community centers and more to host sign up events. We’ll let you know if we receive the funds and will certainly invite your library to participate.

We are welcoming our newest staff member to the Library Development team on January 30. Michael Maziekien is coming to NJSL from the Cranford Public Library where he has served as director. Michael will be taking on a newly created role, Shared Services Consultant. In his position, Michael will manage statewide projects including statewide reference contracts and databases, and will be our conduit to organizations like LibraryLinkNJ and Lyrasis. He’ll also be working with the library community to determine what a collaborative state response to eBooks could be. More to come on all of that!

As always, be in touch if there’s any way we can be helpful to you as you focus on providing equitable and excellent service to your patrons.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

New Jersey State Publications Digital Library – The full collection of the Annual Report of the Bureau of Parole which existed within the Division of Operations (or Division of Policy and Planning) of the New Jersey Department of Corrections from 1964-1995 was digitized in December and uploaded to the New Jersey State Publications Digital Library. Researchers can find it here.

COVID-19 Resources – While communities and their libraries have been living with COVID-19 for a while, many people still have questions and lingering issues that might benefit from our resource guide on the subject.
Digital Federal Depository Library Program – The GPO’s Task Force on a Digital Federal Depository Library Program released their report, *Feasibility of a Digital Federal Depository Library Program: Report of the GPO Director’s Task Force*. The FDLP is on a path to become a fully digital program. The report outlines the many advantages to this. State Librarian Jennifer Nelson was a member of this Task Force as a representative of the Chief Officers of State Librarians Agencies (COSLA).

Local Library Support Fund – The checks from the Local Library Support Fund were mailed out recently. For more information about this fund please visit [https://www.njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/resources/local-library-support-fund-state-income-tax-check-off/](https://www.njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/resources/local-library-support-fund-state-income-tax-check-off/)

CSLP Informational Packet for 2023 Summer Reading Program – There has been a delay in sending out the usual packet through the statewide delivery service to public libraries. The packet will contain a cover letter explaining the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) summer reading incentives your library will receive for 2023, a printed CSLP catalog, and the online manual code link. CSLP had a delay in getting their catalog printed and they were only sent out recently. State Representative Sharon Rawlins and the Statewide Summer Reading Committee is working on getting the packets out to all libraries. If you have any questions, contact Sharon Rawlins at srawins@njstatelib.org or 609-278-2640 x 116.

TBBC Update – TBBC produced a Winter Newsletter which was sent to every patron with an email address on file. The newsletter is also on our website in both print and audio, and the audio version was sent to patrons on request. TBBC had 27 Outreach events in December, with highlights including: TBBC virtual book club on December 1st; a presentation at the NJASL’s Fall Conference on December 6th; BARD training at the Hoboken Public Library on December 15th; and a demonstration of the Newsline app at the Cedar Crest Assisted Living facility on December 21st. Check out this *Trenton Daily* article featuring TBBC: [https://www.trentondaily.com/draft-new-jersey-state-library-announces-new-braille-on-demand-program/](https://www.trentondaily.com/draft-new-jersey-state-library-announces-new-braille-on-demand-program/)

JerseyConnect Update – The JerseyConnect team continues to evaluate and test alternative solutions to GoSecure, the current spam filtering solution for all email customers. The goal is to complete the evaluations by the end of January and decide by the first week in February. Should an alternate solution be chosen, all libraries utilizing this service will be informed as soon as possible and a migration plan will be announced.

Due to supply chain and other challenges over the past two years, the contracted prices for managed Wi-Fi hardware and licensing continue to rise. In an effort to maintain the best possible pricing, the JerseyConnect team will work with Funds For Learning to rebid this service through the E-rate process. Updated pricing has been posted to the JerseyConnect website and more information will be sent out to those libraries utilizing the service.

You’re Invited:

New Directors Training – As a new director, NJSN is here to support you in your role by offering basic training on a number of topics that are considered core knowledge for any leader of a public library in the state. Find out about the New Jersey State Library and how our departments can help you. Webinar Dates: Wednesday, February 15, and Wednesday, February 22. Topics include: Library Law; Budgeting; Purchasing; Strategic Planning; Working with Trustees & Elected Officials; Managing Library Staff; and more. Please note that while this training is geared toward new library directors, all library directors are invited to attend. Register here: [https://bit.ly/3GXhqsS](https://bit.ly/3GXhqsS)
**Summer Reading Workshops** – The Statewide Summer Reading Committee is looking forward to having youth and adult services public library staff attend the annual summer reading workshops this year. The dates for the workshops are: Friday, March 3, 2023 at Gloucester County Library, Mullica Hill (in-person); Friday, March 10, 2023 at Parsippany-Troy Hills Public Library, Main Library (in-person); and Friday, March 24, 2023 (virtual). For the in-person workshops, you’re invited to bring a program idea, example of your reading logs and instructions, and/or craft sample to share with the group. Registration will open February 13th on the NJ Summer Reading website. You must be subscribed to the website to access the workshop registration page. Questions? Email njlasummerreading@gmail.com

**NJSL Presents Upcoming Programming** –

- On February 17th from 12pm – 1pm, join us for a webinar in honor of Black History Month, [Henry Beard, From Enslaved Man to Union Civil War Veteran](#). Hear author Dustin Dumas and her son, Taylor Weeks, discuss the story of Henry Beard, a man who escaped enslavement to join an all-white regiment of the Union Army during the Civil War.
- On February 21st from 12pm – 1pm, NJSL will host a webinar, [Finding Grant Funding with Foundation Directory](#). Learn how to use the Foundation Directory to find and evaluate prospective grant funders for your organization.
- On February 23rd from 12pm – 1pm, join us for a webinar in honor of Black History Month, [From Protest to President: A Social Justice Journey through the Emergence of Adult Education and the Birth of Distance Learning](#). Hear George Pruitt, President Emeritus of Thomas Edison State University, discuss his activism and groundbreaking work to provide access to higher education for working adults and military personnel via distance learning.

**Get Involved:**

**NJSL Website Survey** – At the New Jersey State Library, we are working on redesigning our website and we'd love to have your input! Would you please take a few moments to complete our 4-minute survey: [https://bit.ly/3ZqcW1P](https://bit.ly/3ZqcW1P)? All responses will be kept anonymous. Your feedback will be helpful to our redesign process. We appreciate your time. This survey will close on January 31, 2023. Thank you in advance!!

**Additional Northstar Digital Literacy Licenses Available** – Since November 2021, the New Jersey State Library has provided licenses for Northstar Digital Literacy to sixty public libraries, including those that participated in the NJSL + Partners Hubs, Spokes, and Access Navigators program. The NJSL is now adding 25 licenses, beginning in January 2023, to bring the total number of libraries offering this resource to 85. These additional licenses will be assigned on a first come, first served basis and will be valid through the end of September 2023. If your library is interested in joining, please fill out this form: [https://forms.gle/YhGKHEzjqKNximE37](https://forms.gle/YhGKHEzjqKNximE37). For questions and more information, please contact northstar@njstatelibrary.org.