

State Librarian's Update

March 2023

While we haven't received details yet, we are scheduled to receive a \$400,000 award from the Affordable Connectivity Program grant opportunity. Our work is a collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Health, and we're looking forward to joining forces to promote digital inclusion in New Jersey. Once our revised program plan is finalized, we will reach out to see if you or your library is interested in participating.

Thank you to the many libraries that have submitted an application to join the Social Work Informed Libraries program we are developing. One of the goals of the project is to develop two curricula – one directed to library staff about working with social workers and the second directed to social work practitioners about working in libraries. We hope these curricula will be useful to any library in the state considering expansion into on site social service partnerships.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

NJLA Emerging Leaders: Held at the State Library on Feb 16th, attendees were offered tours of the different sections and collections of the State Library Information Center, including the Rare Books collection as well as the library's fledgling digitization studio space.

Updated NJSL LibGuides

- [Affordable Care Act Information](#)
- [Historical Company Research](#)
- [Environmental Resources](#)
- List of [Free Databases](#)

Directory of NJ Local Names: A common question research librarians field in the State Library Information Center relates to the names of local towns and where they are located. Check out the directory [New Jersey Local Names](#) compiled by the NJ Dept of Transportation.

TBBC Update: Many National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) patrons are using mobile devices to listen to books directly downloaded from the BARD database. NLS patrons are beta testing smart speakers such as the Amazon Alexia to download and listen to audiobooks from BARD.

Connecting people with information through libraries

You're Invited:

NJS� Presents: All of the NJS� Presents programs offered by the New Jersey State Library are open to the public. Pre-registration is required for all attendees. Programs range from author talks to information sessions on topics like retirement. Check out the full list of upcoming events here: <https://www.njstatelib.org/events/list/>.

Lessons Learned from the Route 91 Harvest Musical Festival Shooting: March 29, 2023, 2:00-3:30 PM. This session will reflect on lessons for all parties involved in large pop-up location event planning and mass casualty response. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/3z4Zhop>

Legal Issues for Libraries: Spaces, Patrons & Collections: Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 7:00 PM. Presented by Tomas A. Lipinski, J.D., LL.M., M.L.I.S., Ph.D., Professor, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. Collection Challenges and Regulation - A discussion of the law relating to content objections, e.g. book reconsiderations (banning) in libraries, both shelf/physical and online content and the immunity for online content when the library is a qualifying service provider under federal law. Learn more: <https://www.njstatelib.org/news/legal-issues-for-libraries/>

2023 Digital Literacy Forum: May 11, 2023, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm, Monroe Township Public Library. The forum will be a full day, in-person gathering designed for library and literacy professionals who work in various educational and information services contexts. This year's theme is Literacy Before Digital Literacy. Join us as we build relationships with practitioners and collaborators in the field of digital literacy. Registration information, including the cost to attend is forthcoming. For inquiries, please contact Mimi Lee, Director of Literacy and Learning at mlee@njstatelib.org

The 90 Second Newbery Award Film Festival: April 16, 2023, 3 PM, Trenton, NJ. Films submitted by NJ youth will be shown at the inaugural 90 Second Newbery Award Film Festival sponsored by the New Jersey State Library on April 16, 2023 at 3 pm at the NJ State Museum's Auditorium in Trenton (located next to the NJ State Museum). The festival will be hosted by author James Kennedy, founder of the 90-Second Newbery Award Film Festival, and co-hosted by author Chris Grabenstein. Questions? Please contact Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, NJ State Library, srawlins@njstatelib.org. For more information about the 90 Second Newbery Award Film Festival, visit: <https://90secondnewbery.com/>. View the flyer [here](#).

Get Involved:

Northstar Digital Literacy: The State Library currently offers Northstar Digital Literacy licenses to 85 libraries. Training and support are available to help staff learn about this powerful learning tool that offers online, self-guided modules to assess the ability of individuals to perform computer and online tasks based on these skills. Learn more and find a list of participating libraries here: www.njstatelib.org/northstar and email northstar@njstatelib.org with questions.

Labor & Literacy Library Program: There is still time to join! The Labor & Literacy Library program supports NJ Libraries as they provide assistance to their patrons seeking digital literacy skills, Adult Basic Education (ABE), English Language Learning (ELL/ESL), and job search assistance. Learn more here: www.njstatelib.org/njsl-partners-literacy-project

Library Equal Access Program (LEAP): These classes teach visually impaired individuals, aged 55 and older, how to use accessible features available on iPhones and iPads. Accessible features covered in LEAP classes include Siri, VoiceOver, and magnification. Classes are being held at Atlantic City Public Library; Cherry Hill Public Library; East Brunswick; Johnson Public Library (Hackensack); Newark Public Library; Ocean County Library Toms River; Talking Book and Braille Center (Trenton); Gloucester County Library – Mullica Hill. For more information, contact us by phone at 800-792-8322 ext. 812 or by email at tbbc@njstatelib.org