

State Librarian's Update

April 2023

I was prompted to write an opinion piece in response to Rowan College of South Jersey's president's comments at a City Council hearing. It got picked up by the Philadelphia Inquirer and if interested, you can [read it online](#). We're celebrating National Library Worker's day at the New Jersey State Library on April 25, 2023. As I reflect on what makes libraries in New Jersey so strong, it really is the full complement of library workers – from grounds and maintenance personnel, to clerks, assistants, librarians and directors – it truly takes a village to make a difference in communities in the state. I hope you'll be able to celebrate your work (and your colleagues) not just on April 25, but every day.

It was a pleasure to attend the ribbon cutting for the newest LEAP (Library Equal Access Program) at the Mullica Hills branch of the Gloucester County Library on April 4. Listening to Director Carolyn Oldt welcome guests – which included Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Executive Director Bernice Johnson and Department of Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman – I was struck, again, by the village it takes to operate such a service-oriented program. The number of partnerships that Carolyn listed was mighty and detailed. I encourage you to contact Carolyn for more information about LEAP and Mullica Hills, or Adam Szczepaniak at the Talking Book and Braille Center for more information about becoming a LEAP site.

Thank you, as always for the work that you are doing for residents of New Jersey. If NJSL can be helpful to you, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

NJSL's Funding Information Center

Candid has rebranded the Funding Information Network as Candid Community. GuideStarPro is now available onsite at the State Library. Check our [Grant Information LibGuide](#) and our [Funding Information Center](#) webpage for more information on grants and grant writing.

Upcoming Digitization Projects

The State Library received a large donation of planning documents and reports from Plan Smart NJ. Much of this content will be targeted for digitization over the coming years, to develop a collection to address New Jersey's land use history. Additionally, the State Library is partnering with the Department of Transportation to digitize State Highway Commission Official Road Maps for the years 1900-1964. This will provide an interesting visual display of New Jersey's transportation history.

Connecting people with information through libraries

TBBC Updates

In the coming months, TBBC staff will be present at the following events: April 28 - Tri-State DisAbility Art Show; April 29 - Spring Into Action, City of Long Branch and the NJ Disability Caucus, Long Branch Firehouse; May 2 - Virtual BARD Training for Somerset Library; May 2 - Monmouth County Parks; May 8 - Virtual BARD Training for Ocean County Library; May 18 - Mercer County Association of the Blind; May 24 - Glen Ridge BARD Training; June 3 - Burlington County Book Festival; June 6 - NJALA Conference; June 13 - TBBC Golf Classic.

You're Invited:

The following sessions, hosted by NJSL, are all virtual and free to the public:

- In recognition of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we welcome Yoland Skeete-Laessig, [When Newark had a Chinatown](#), on May 8th 12:00 – 1:00.
- On May 11th from 12:00 – 1:00, we host Cheryl Woodruff-Brooks for a virtual author talk, [Chicken Bone Beach: A Pictorial History of Atlantic City's Missouri Avenue Beach](#).

Library Director and Trustee Training

On May 3rd at 7pm, Danielle Cesena, Head of Technology and Community Engagement at the Livingston Public Library, will present information on First Amendment Audits. [Register](#).

Annual Digital Literacy Forum

This forum will be held in-person at Monroe Township Public Library on May 11th, 9:30-3:30. [Register](#).

Save the Dates

Virtual Library Directors Check-in - May 23rd, 2:00 pm; Virtual Library Trustees Check-in, May 25th, 7:00 pm.

Get Involved:

The New Jersey State Library, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Health, received an Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) grant in the amount of \$400,000 from the Federal Communications Commission, to support households struggling to afford internet service. Join us and become a library host for ACP in-person enrollment events to help your community members start saving on their Internet bill! Our 'ACP Connects NJ' staff will be on hand to answer their questions about ACP benefits and help them complete the application on the spot. Please contact Andrea Levandowski, alevandowski@njstatelib.org, for more information about how your library can become a host, with programs starting in July 2023.