

State Librarian's Update June 2023

Thanks to all of you that took time out of your schedule during the New Jersey Library Association Conference to visit our booth, attend New Jersey State Library (NJSL) staff sessions, or join us for breakfast. It was a pleasure to see so many of you and to share the work that we've been doing and have planned. The following week, I had the distinct pleasure of providing welcoming remarks at the New Jersey Association of Library Assistant's 34th Annual Conference. The keynote and plenary sessions were inspiring and I was honored to attend.

NJSL has a number of interesting projects in the works, and I look forward to a summer of sharing them with you. First up, we have proposed amendments to the Library Construction Bond Act regulations that are designed to improve the administration of the program. The proposed changes, which will be published for public comment on July 3, would allow the State Librarian to adjust the allowable cost per square foot during the administration of grants when the Consumer Price Index changes, and allow the State Librarian, after consultation with the President of Thomas Edison State University, to approve structural changes to approved projects without legislative approval. Please join me on Thursday, June 29 at 11am for a webinar that will review the proposed language more closely and give you a chance to ask questions. You can access the session at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81910952752?pwd=V21CSTd4TWNCYWN4VS9QZ1BjTzhjUT09>

The session will NOT be recorded.

Please know we're available to you as you go about your work with patrons, boards and other stakeholders. NJSL staff are here to help in any way possible. As always, thank you for your service to New Jersey's residents! Your work really does transform lives.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

Candid eBooks on Overdrive

Did you know that anyone can checkout nonprofit-related eBooks from Candid's Overdrive account? Free registration is required. Go to [Candid - eBooks \(Overdrive\)](#)



New Jersey Digital Library

In honor of Pride Month, learn about the history of Anti-LGBTQ+ Enforcement Actions by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control with this [Directive](#) digitized and available in the New Jersey Digital Library collection.

2023 CSLP Summer Reading Champion Announced!

The [Collaborative Summer Library Program](#) has teamed up with NBC's Today show's *Read with Jenna* to promote summer reading and public libraries! You can view the Read with Jenna [announcement here](#), and check out the new [Read with Jenna Summer Reading List](#) to print and provide to patrons at your library. You can also watch [Today's live announcement](#). CSLP's [newsletter with the announcement](#) is also available. Have a great summer #AllTogetherNow!

You're Invited:

Upcoming NJSJL Presents programming

- [Unconquered Spirit: The Lost Souls and the Other Slave Trade](#) – June 20, 12:00 pm
- [Understanding Cryptocurrency](#) – June 27, 12:00 pm
- [Looking for America on the New Jersey Turnpike](#) (July Author Talk) – July 11, 12:00 pm.

StarNet Offering Free Eclipse Glasses to Public Libraries

With an annular solar eclipse on October 14, 2023 and a total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, the STAR Library Education Networks SEAL (Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries) initiative (with major funding support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation) is distributing free solar eclipse viewing glasses to libraries in all 50 states and protectorates. Learn more: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BT58RYV> (You must complete the registration in one sitting – you can't save it and go back to it later)

ACP Connects NJ

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 questions about ACP benefits and help with completing applications on the spot. For more information about how your library can become a host, with programs starting in July 2023, please contact Andrea Levandowski, at: alevandowski@njstatelib.org.

Northstar Digital Literacy Training

The New Jersey State Library currently offers Northstar Digital Literacy licenses to 88 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 and Literacy Library Program

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 Director and Trustee Training

On July 5th at 7pm, join us for an Overview of NJLA with Executive Director Brett Bonfield. Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OI-NSoUtQq6J5J3VoYFaKQ

Statewide Services Info Sessions

Learn more about services available to all NJ libraries and their patrons! All are welcome to these virtual information sessions, hosted by the New Jersey State Library. For comments, questions or feedback, please reach out to Michael Maziekien, Shared Services Project Specialist in the Library Development Bureau, at mmaziekien@njstatelib.org.

- **Back-to-School with EBSCO** – Thurs., August 10th, at 2pm
It's back-to-school, so let's review the ways in which your EBSCO resources support your school community. Learn more and register: <https://bit.ly/ebSCO4schools>
- **Statewide Reference Services Through the Newark PL** – Thurs., Aug 24th, at 2pm
At this information session, attendees will learn about how the rare, historic and unique collections at the Newark Public Library are used to support library users across the state. Learn more and register: <https://bit.ly/newarkPL>

Get Involved:

IMLS-funded Building Equity Based Summers (BEBS) Initiative

Building Equity-Based Summers is a national learning initiative focused on assisting public library staff in gaining the skills necessary to work with systematically marginalized communities as part of the summer services programming. We are recruiting five public library teams with at least two people from that library on each team. If your library is interested, please contact Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, NJ State Library, srawlins@njstatelib.org. Learn more here:

<https://www.njstatelib.org/news/imls-funded-building-equity-based-summers-bebs-initiative/>.

Call for Volunteers – E-Resources Advisory Committee

The current JerseyClicks collection of statewide e-resources, comprised of services provided by EBSCO, Gale, Proquest and Data Axle, will be supported by New Jersey Library Network Funding and IMLS funding through June 2025. The New Jersey State Library currently seeks volunteers to serve on an E-Resources Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee, facilitated by New Jersey State Library Project Specialist for Shared Services Michael Maziekien, will be to evaluate current and potential electronic resources, and provide feedback and guidance. A separate committee, to convene in July 2024, will consider this group's recommendations when creating and evaluating requests for quotations. If you are interested in studying, evaluating and shaping the future of NJ's statewide digital collections, please fill out the survey to express your interest in an appointment to the E-Resources Advisory Committee. Learn more and access the survey: <https://www.njstatelib.org/news/attention-nj-libraries-call-for-volunteers-e-resources-advisory-committee/>.