

State Librarian's Update July 2023

The New Jersey State Library is excited to announce a new competitive grant program – Community Center Digital Connect. It is a Capital Projects Fund opportunity made available through the U.S. Treasury, by way of the Department of Community Affairs. It is a unique opportunity open to a few different types of organizations, including, of course, public libraries. Information, including a link to a Technical Information session scheduled for July 25 can be found on the NJSL website www.njstatelib.org/CPF. We welcome your questions and encourage you to share the information with others in your county or municipality who may have an interest. The program presents a great opportunity to reinforce or build partnerships.

*Please note: to address the interest of the U.S. Treasury in impacting areas of the state most in need following COVID 19 pandemic, grant applications **must** propose to serve a community that is listed on the grant guidelines document.*

On a separate note, we are looking for ways to expand access to the Palace Project collection. While we don't have any specific news to share today, please keep an eye out for news as we work with Lyrasis to make sure that as many people as possible have access to the shared collection. Most of our purchases were for perpetual licenses. If you have questions about the Palace Project or would like more information, please reach out to Michael Maziekien (mmaziekien@njstatelib.org).

Finally, I'd like to express my appreciation and gratitude for each of you and the work that you and your libraries do to keep New Jersey residents moving forward in their lives. Thank you.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

State Library Information Center Updates

Deborah Mercer retired from the State Library at the end of June. As the head of the New Jersey Documents section of the State Library Information Center, she was responsible for managing and growing the collection of the New Jersey State Publications Digital Library. Most recently in her role, she spearheaded a National Archives and Records Administration grant funded project titled, "Telling New Jersey's Untold Stories," to digitize unique collections including the New Jersey Court of Errors and Appeals decisions and records (1844-1947), records and publications from the Port Authority of



New York & New Jersey, and publications related to land use and development in New Jersey. She also represented the State Library's interests with the NJ Historical Commission and the NJ/DE Digital Collective. Her contributions to lifting up and sharing New Jersey's history have been significant and she will be missed.

Upon a request from the First Lady's Office, the State Library has been asked to develop a children's book collection focusing on New Jersey authors and subjects for display in the library at Drumthwacket. Materials appropriate for children around 9 or 10 years old will be made available for a temporary loan from the State Library to the Drumthwacket.

The State Library Information Center purchased and received high end digitization equipment for use in digitizing bound and fragile material, large format documents, maps, and much more. This equipment is paid for through a grant from the National Archives and Records Administration.

Take a deep dive into some New Jersey history to learn about The Lost Souls Public Memorial Project and the Van Wickles Slave Ring Digital Collection through a presentation recap and accompanying videos about these subjects. These are hosted on our website at:

<https://www.njstatelib.org/vanwickleslaveringscollection>

Book Dives Program

The New Jersey State Library, and the Albert Shanker Institute (MN), in partnership with the Newark Public Library, and the American Federation of Teachers – NJ (AFTNJ) has introduced an exciting early literacy program called Book Dives that launched during the summer reading program at the Springfield, Vailsburg and Van Buren branches of the Newark Public Library. This pilot program introduces children ages 3-7 and their families or caregivers to storytimes using appealing informational books on topics of interest to young children. For more information visit:

<https://www.njstatelib.org/news/book-dives-program/>

You're Invited:

Upcoming NJSL Webinars:

- [Finding Grant Funding with Foundation Directory](#) – July 18, 2023; 12:00 – 1:00 pm
- [Gardening for Butterflies: Bring Nature to Your Home](#) – July 19, 2023; 12:00 – 1:00 pm
- [Diving Deeper into Genetic Genealogy](#) – August 2, 2023; 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Library Directors & Trustees Continuing Education Webinar

On August 2nd, at 7:00 pm, learn about NJSL's Digital Equity Initiative: Current Projects and Partnerships. Mimi Lee, Director of Literacy and Learning at NJSL, will discuss a number of projects and programs, including the Affordable Connectivity Program, the Northstar Digital Literacy online training tool, Social Workers in Libraries Program, and Teaching Information Literacy. Learn more:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cO03Tj54S1G1TRPGuIlong

Library Directors Check-in

Monthly check-in with Bob Keith and Michele Stricker – July 18, 2:00 pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EYs-HD2GSb-M9Bc1zRnRKQ

Library Trustees Check-in

Monthly check-in with Bob Keith, Michele Stricker, and Pat Pavlak from NJLTA – July 20, 7:00 pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CLwB4GWcTny8SEYirlhHIw

Free Naloxone Training

Join us for a free, virtual training about overdose death prevention strategies including the appropriate administration of naloxone and rescue breathing. Sessions will take place on July 20 and 26, 2023 from 1:00-2:30 pm (please only select one date). [Register Here](#)

Back-to-school with EBSCO

On Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 2:00 pm, we will review key functionality available in EBSCOhost and Explora, EBSCO's engaging interfaces designed to support student research and classroom instruction with rich, reliable content and easy-to-use functionality. [Register Here](#)

Statewide Reference Services Through the Newark Public Library

Join us for an information session on Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 2:00 pm. 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. [Register Here](#)

HeritageQuest Online Introduction

Join us on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 3:00 pm. HeritageQuest Online is a genealogical database with access to government records, census data and auxiliary resources on family history. [Register Here](#)

Get to Know the Updated Gale Presents: Peterson's Test and Career Prep

Recent updates have been made to your JerseyClicks resource, Gale Presents: Peterson's Test and Career Prep; let's show them off! Join us on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 2:00 pm. [Register Here](#)

Get Involved:

TBBC Summer Reading

TBBC's 2023 Children and Teens Summer Reading Program has officially begun with the first packet of goodies going out to our youth patrons who have registered. Currently, 33 patrons have enrolled, 8 of which also receive their packets in braille. A [Spanish adult summer reading program](#) is also available. An announcement about NLS Summer Online Programs is available [here](#).

Building Equity-Based Summer Initiative

BEBS is an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) [grant-funded national initiative](#) focused on assisting public library staff in gaining the skills necessary to work with systematically marginalized communities. The NJ State Library is seeking five public libraries to participate in the second year of this three-year initiative. Learn more [here](#).

Affordable Connectivity Program

NJSL is on to the next stages of the ACP project – hiring our ACP Navigators! We hope to have a team in place and ready to visit your library by the end of August. We're also working with the Office of Broadband to start outreach activities at a series of BPU listening sessions that are coming up over the next few weeks. Thanks to the Sussex County library for graciously hosting an event scheduled for July 18. There's still time for your library to let us know you're interested in hosting – we'll start scheduling for the fall in early August. We'll also have more information about what being a host site entails, as well as flyers you can distribute in advance. Andrea Levandowski is your best contact for signing on to be a host site alevandowski@njstatelib.org