

State Librarian's Update

August 2023

It was such an honor to be at the White House on July 17 as First Lady Dr. Jill Biden presented the Long Branch Public Library with its National Medal for Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. I am so proud of how Tonya Garcia and her staff serve the community, and am inspired by their commitment to service. The path to getting to a medal is a long one, and starts with a library that decides boundaries are meant to be overcome and then proceeds to work with its community on implementing creative solutions to local needs. There are hundreds of public libraries in New Jersey doing this every day, and I'd like to think that Long Branch represents the best of what New Jersey libraries can do when we're committed to our communities.

I am excited to introduce you to our new Project Specialist who starts at NJSL on August 14. Ivan Freire is joining the library to take on the implementation of Community Center Digital Connect: A Capital Projects Fund grant opportunity. Ivan has a wealth of experience working with large federal grants, and impressed the interview team with his focus on engaging community. He's coming to us from Jersey City, where he's worked for over 15 years in a number of capacities. Please feel free to reach out to Ivan with questions or a welcome, his email is ifreire@njstatelib.org.

I was reflecting this week on what a library is – whether public, school, special or academic – and was struck by how much has changed since I started my career in 1987. Yet I was equally struck by how much has remained the same. One of the constants has been the dedication of library staff to embrace challenges keeping an eye on the North Star – our patrons. Thank you for doing that in your library in spite of the challenges that you face every day.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

Cataloging Record Distribution Program

Edith Becket of the State Library Information Center's Technical Services Unit provided consultation to the South Carolina State Library by sharing NJSL's cataloging workflow for materials from the Cataloging Record Distribution Program. Because NJSL is a long time CRDP library, we participate in the Government Publishing Office's CRDP Buddy program. This program asks experienced CRDP participants to serve as a resource for new participants who use the same or similar integrated library



systems. SCSL uses Symphony, NJSL uses Horizon, but the systems are similar enough, that Edith was able to answer many of their questions. Edith also shared training materials her unit developed for catalogers.

NJSL's Legal Resources

If you've ever found yourself seeking New Jersey legal research information available on our website, we've recently relaunched a new [Legal Resources](#) page that will connect you to current and historic New Jersey judicial, legislative and regulatory resources. Need more help? Call our Law Library at (609) 278-2640 x 102.

You're Invited:

NJSL Upcoming Events

- Enjoy upcoming programs offered through the State Library Information Center. All programs are virtual and open to anyone. Registration is required. [View the events calendar here.](#)
- [Monthly Directors Check-in](#) with Bob Keith and Michele Stricker - August 15th at 2:00 pm.
- [Monthly Trustees Check-in](#) with Bob Keith and Michele Stricker - August 17th at 7:00 pm.
- HeritageQuest Online Introduction - September 7th at 3:00 pm. [Register Here](#)
- Get to Know the Updated Gale Presents: Peterson's Test and Career Prep - September 26th at 2:00 pm. [Register Here](#)

Get Involved:

Statewide Marketing Campaign

Throughout the months of June and July, the NJSL Office of Communications, Marketing & Outreach, in partnership with LLNJ, NJLA, and Libraries Are Essential, have run a statewide marketing campaign for NJ public libraries. The campaign is designed to speak to the various "user personas" who may or may not know what the library has to offer. Under the theme, "Beyond Books: Life Happens @ the Library," digital marketing materials such as social media graphics and videos were made available for libraries to share through their networks. All materials are currently available for download on-demand at: www.njstatelib.org/beyondbooks.

Talking Book & Braille Center Outreach

TBBC Outreach staff work are working diligently to make communities all over the state aware of their resources, including these upcoming events.

- On Aug. 19th, TBBC will be exhibiting at [Surfing for Vision in Long Branch](#)
- On Sept. 30th, TBBC will be exhibiting at the [Elmwood Park Celebrates Seniors Day](#)
- Veteran Affairs Medical Centers Visual Impairment Services Team Support Groups: September 6th, Lyons; September 18th, East Orange.

2023 Summer Reading Program Survey Open

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) has a number of exciting things happening. A summer reading survey was created so CSLP can better assess the usefulness of the materials offered by the program on a national level to better serve you. Additionally, the CSLP theme/slogan committee has compiled a list of the suggested summer reading program themes for 2027 and slogans for 2026 from all across the U.S. CSLP invites you to be a part of the process by voicing your opinions on what your favorite slogan and theme is and what you think your CSLP State Representative should vote on at the Annual CSLP Meeting in September. We encourage everyone to join one of the two scheduled sessions and speak as you feel comfortable. [Learn more here.](#)

Building Equity-Based Summers Initiative (BEBS)

BEBS is an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant-funded national initiative focused on assisting public library staff gain the skills needed to implement equitable summer services 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.](#)