

State Librarian's Update September 2023

It was such a pleasure to learn that the State Library's Talking Book and Braille Center, New Jersey's regional library of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), received the Regional Library of the Year 2023 distinction from the Library of Congress. The award is a recognition of the myriad of creative ways that staff are connecting with patrons – which range from telephone service (English and Spanish), to online book clubs (English and Spanish) and the Library Equal Access Program (LEAP) in partnership with public libraries across the state – so that all may read. The services provided also reflect a strong partnership with the state's Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (a division of the New Jersey Department of Human Services) which bolsters services. Please join me in congratulating the staff of our TBBC for this award.

The State Library is working with the state's Office of Broadband Connectivity to gather data for the state's Digital Equity Plan, which is currently being developed. We are hosting an online listening session on September 19 at 1pm that will focus on the needs, challenges and barriers of people with disabilities in using the internet, accessing technology and learning digital literacy. Please consider joining the call if you have a disability or are a caregiver for someone with a disability, or your patron base includes a significant number of people with disabilities. Register at: <https://bit.ly/NJDigitalEquity>.

In late October, the Office of Broadband Connectivity will be releasing a draft of the Digital Equity Plan for public comments. I will let you know when this is available – though it will be publicized through many channels – and hope that you will consider providing your thoughts and feedback. Public library staff, in particular, are perfectly poised to comment on the challenges and needs that people in the community have with internet access, and your voice is important.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

For eLibraryNJ participating libraries, the State Library acquires and shares a variety of Civil Service test books in ebook format. Municipal or county civil service employees who are preparing for a civil service exam may find a test book that can help them. An easy way to search the whole collection is by searching "National Learning Corporation," and review the 80+ titles that come up.



JerseyClicks offers Gale Presents: Peterson's Test and Career Center, which has a range of vocational and educational practice tests. Whether preparing for the SAT, entering the foreign service, or seeking to become a medical technician, there is a wide range of educational entrance exams, as well as practice exams for certification, credentialing, or licensing. Peterson's Test and Career Prep helps students and adults be better prepared down the road for both college and their career.

During each school year, hundreds of school children tour Drumthwacket, the official residence of the Governor of New Jersey, as part of their elementary social studies curriculum. The State Library staff who work with New Jersey historical collections helped develop a small collection of age appropriate materials about New Jersey and by New Jersey authors to display in Drumthwacket's library. These materials will be on display during the current school year.

You're Invited:

2023 Summer Reading Program Survey – New Survey Link

Attention all public library staff who missed completing the national Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) summer reading survey by the September 8, 2023 deadline. Another survey with the same questions was created to collect responses that can be accessed [here](#). If you need to see the questions beforehand, a PDF is [available](#). Questions? Contact Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, srawlins@njstatelib.org.

Building Equity-Based Summers Initiative (BEBS) – Deadline Extended Until Sept 22nd

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

Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL) Kit

The Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL) program has provided the NJ State Library with solar science kits, and information and activities to share with public libraries for their library patrons. [Click to learn more and request a kit](#).

2025 CSLP Color Our World Slogan Program Contest

CSLP is interested in your creative and unique program ideas for the 2025 slogan, Color Our World: Colorea Nuestro Mundo, that ties into the Art theme. One program idea from each category (children, teens, and adults), and one pertaining to early literacy books and songs will be selected that best captures the slogan. The winner in each category will get a coupon for \$50 worth of merchandise in the CSLP store. Submit your program ideas [here](#). There is no limit on the number of ideas a public library can submit, but CSLP is looking for high-quality, creative, colorful program concepts over quantity. The contest is open until September 30, 2023.

Join NJSL in celebrating Family History Month in October (advance registration is required):

- [Property Rights and Wrongs – African-Americans at the Courthouse](#) – October 13th
- [A Genealogical Odyssey In the Digital Age: In Search of a Ghost and a Missing Vowel](#) – October 17th
- [Lineage Society Panel Discussion](#) – October 27th

Get Involved:

ACP Connects NJ Update:

Two ACP Enrollment Navigators have been hired and will be trained in September, in preparation for providing one-on-one assistance to ACP applicants at events and host locations in targeted geographic areas, which will begin in early-to-mid October. Libraries can request to host an ACP enrollment event by using this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/sN0kaNWLgt>. The State Library is prioritizing locations in Central and South Jersey (Congressional Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 12). However, libraries outside of these areas are encouraged to complete the form, as we see how we can either accommodate these requests or link libraries with partner organizations. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Andrea Levandowski at 609-278-2640 x190, or alevandowski@njstatelib.org.

Northeast Summit on Climate Adaptation for Library Facilities

In partnership with Northeast State Libraries: New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine, this kick-off summit is the first joint partnership of all Northeast State Libraries in support of adaptive resilience solutions for libraries facing the effects of climate change to their buildings and communities. Taking place on November 8, 2023, 9:30am – 12:30pm, the focus will be on facilities adaptation and will include practical takeaways, concrete steps, and suggestions for improvement. Each session will be inclusive of libraries at all budget levels. Routine repairs, incremental upgrades, and manageable changes will be covered, as libraries plan for the future of climate adaptation. Keynote Speakers: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (MLS, LEED AP), Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Library System (NY), and the co-founder/current president of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI), Matthew Bollerman, Chief Executive Officer, Hauppauge Public Library, NY. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/NE-Summit-Register>