

# State Librarian's Update

## October 2023

I'm pleased to share that the State Library has received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to build curriculum and training around New Jersey's emerging information literacy standards for K-12 education. Sharon Rawlins is leading our work in this three-year project that will engage school, public and academic librarians, and close with a national convening on Reimaging Information Literacy in 2026. Please let me or Sharon know if you have questions or thoughts about the topic; we'd love to hear from you.

I wanted to give a quick shout out to Courtenay Reece at the Millville Public Library. Courtenay submitted an application that nominated the library's long-standing partner, the Holly City Development Corporation for an inaugural [I Partner with My Library Award](#). The Millville partnership won! Established by Let's Move in Libraries, the awards program is designed to showcase the deep partnerships that public libraries have across the country that help to build, strengthen and brighten communities of all sizes. Congratulations, Courtenay.

I will let you know when submissions for 2024 open, so start thinking about who your library partners are and how they help your library serve, build, strengthen and brighten your community. I would love to see all of the great work happening in New Jersey get recognized like this!

Jen Nelson  
State Librarian

## Stay Informed:

### *Updates from the State Library Information Center*

The State Library is developing a "Get to Know Your Local Historical Society" project. Check out the first entry pertaining to the [Historical Society of Princeton](#).

Constitution Day (September 17<sup>th</sup>) has come and gone, but you'll find helpful resources regarding the US Constitution year-round on our [Constitution Day libguide](#).

In addition to the DT Versa digital camera system for high end digitization, we are acquiring a BookEye scanner to increase its ability to do FADGI level digitization of historic documents and maps. About 15,000 pages from the New Jersey Court of Error and Appeals collection have been digitized in-house since August. This is in addition to over 360,000 that were digitized by a contract vendor in FY2023.



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### ***Updates from TBBC***

Adam Szczepaniak and Elizabeth Burns accepted TBBC's National NLS Library of the Year award at a luncheon on September 7th, in the historic Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Librarian of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden, praised TBBC's "24/7 commitment to ensuring that disability stops no one from experiencing the lifelong joy of reading."

TBBC is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month! Luisa Martucci has created booklists in English and Spanish, and will also be hosting a Hispanic Heritage Online Event for patrons via Zoom on October 19. [Register here.](#)

Adam Szczepaniak will be addressing the state convention of the National Federation of the Blind on Saturday, November 11 in Edison NJ on TBBC's accomplishment this past year.

### ***Reimagining Information Literacy Standards Initiative***

The IMLS FY2023 National Leadership Grants for Libraries award that NJSL received will develop replicable models and tools that support learning of information literacy for K-12 students. We plan to create an engaging, collaboratively developed online platform of training modules that teaches information literacy and the curriculum available to a broad audience including library media specialists, public librarians, academic librarians and teachers. We will be partnering with the NJASL, LibraryLinkNJ, and other stakeholders on this 3 year initiative.

### ***Building Equity-Based Summers Initiative (BEBS)***

BEBS is an IMLS grant-funded national initiative focused on assisting public library staff to gain the skills needed to implement equitable summer services with systematically marginalized communities. NJSL selected six public libraries to participate in Cohort Year 2 of this three-year initiative: Atlantic City Free Public Library, Somerset County Library System's North Plainfield, Bound Brook and Somerville branches, Dover Free Public Library, Keyport Free Public Library, New Brunswick Free Public Library, and Livingston Public Library. Learn more [here](#).

### ***2023 Statewide Summer Reading Program Statistics***

The number of individuals of all ages who participated was 107,097, an increase of 10.8% from last year. There was a small decrease (.9%) from last year in the number of individuals of all ages who achieved their goal (56,616). There was a 3.8% increase in the number of themed events offered (23,961) compared to last year. The number of attendees at these events increased 10.8% (515,610) over last year, an average of 21.5 individuals attending each event. Two hundred libraries responded to the survey, about 40-50 less than last year.

### ***Trenton Family Festival***

Andrea Levandowski, Mimi Lee, Lauree McArdle, Jen Apgar, Luisa Martucci and Sharon Rawlins were part of the NJSL team that attended the September 23 Trenton Family Festival sponsored by First Lady Tammy Murphy. We shared information about our free electronic resources available through JerseyClicks, and our new ACP Connects NJ internet access program. Staff members also connected with Trenton Mayor Reed Gusciora.

### ***Social Work Informed Library Services in New Jersey (SWILIBS-NJ)***

The initial cohort of social work practicum students from Rutgers University- New Brunswick, selected in the 2023-2024 academic year, began their internship in early September. Twelve BASW and MSW

students hosted by a pilot group of nine libraries went through the onboarding and training sessions that helped orient social work students to the library environment and ensured they understood their roles providing social work services in a library context. Two handbooks, written curricula tailored for both [library task supervisors](#) and [student interns](#), have been completed and are now freely available for anyone interested.

## You're Invited:

### *NJS� Presents Upcoming Events*

Here are some great, free virtual programs available to anyone. Registration is required.

- November 2<sup>nd</sup> – [Introduction to Medicare](#)
- November 14<sup>th</sup> – [Finding Grant Funding with Foundation Directory](#)
- November 17<sup>th</sup> – [Men's Health Information Session](#)

### *2023 Experienced Directors Summit*

The New Jersey State Library and LibraryLinkNJ are partnering to present the [Experienced Directors Summit](#) at Hunterdon County Library on November 15th, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please join us at this full day Summit that will seek to address topics relating to HR.

### *Northeast Virtual Summit on Resilient Library Facilities*

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. 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 improvements for the future of climate adaptation.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

## Get Involved:

### *Affordable Connectivity Program at Your Library*

Two ACP Enrollment Navigators are available to assist eligible individuals with the ACP enrollment process at host locations. So far, enrollment events have been held or are scheduled in Atlantic City, Bridgeton, and Westampton, with many more to come. Libraries can request an ACP enrollment event by using [this form](#). We are 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, 609-278-2640 x190, or [alevandowski@njstatelib.org](mailto:alevandowski@njstatelib.org).

### *Palace Project*

In partnership with Lyrisis, NJS� rolled out a statewide virtual barcode for the Palace Project, providing access to eBooks and digital audiobooks for every New Jersey resident who chooses to sign up. This content includes the Digital Public Library of America-curated Palace Bookshelf of approximately 17,000 items, perpetually-licensed Boundless (formerly Axis 360) titles in the New Jersey State Library's eRead New Jersey collection, and items purchased through the Palace Marketplace by the State Library. New Jersey residents can create a virtual barcode in the Palace app, with just an email address and authentication through geolocation (anywhere in NJ). Read more at <https://www.njstatelib.org/thepalaceproject>, and download the app at: <https://thepalaceproject.org/>.