

## State Librarian's Update

### November 2023

If you haven't heard by now, New Jersey's Digital Equity plan is posted for public comment through November 30. The plan lays out the state's vision and goals related to digital equity, particularly for what the NTIA refers to as covered populations. Public libraries show up prominently in the plan as assets available that assist with broadband access, device access and digital literacy. Your thoughts matter, and I encourage you to [review the plan and provide comments](#).

Similarly, the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Initial Proposal Volume 1 and Volume 2 are available for public comment. The Initial Proposal Volume 1 outlines the state's needs related to broadband access and speed. Public libraries are included as community anchor institutions and, if funding is still available after addressing the state's first priorities, may be considered for upgrades to achieve gigabit internet speed. Please note that the definition of library as a CAI may need to be updated. Volume 2 outlines the proposed sub-grantee process that will be used by the Office of Broadband Connectivity to make awards. Your opinions and perspective matter, please consider [reviewing the proposal and making comments](#).

Jen Nelson  
State Librarian

#### Stay Informed:

##### *Affordable Care Act*

It's Open Enrollment time for "Get Covered" New Jersey Health Insurance Marketplace. Get up to date information to share with your patrons on the State Library's [Affordable Care Act guide](#).

##### *New Jersey Outdoors Digital Collection*

Using our online archive, explore "[New Jersey Outdoors](#)," the colorful, informative journal that highlights New Jersey's natural lands, fish and wildlife resources.

##### *Additional Northstar Digital Literacy Licenses Available*

The State Library is funding 100 [Northstar Digital Literacy](#) licenses through September 2024. The State Library has offered licenses for Northstar Digital Literacy since 2021, and libraries that have already signed up have been automatically renewed. Additional licenses are now available on a first come, first serve basis. For more information and to request a license, please contact [northstar@njstatelib.org](mailto:northstar@njstatelib.org).



### *TBBC's Chilly Chapters*

The [2024 TBBC Winter Reading Program](#) will run from January 8th through March 1<sup>st</sup>, with the goal of increasing circulation and providing entertaining programming for adult TBBC patrons over the winter. Patrons must register by December 15th to participate, and will be entered into a prize drawing for a BARD compatible Amazon Fire tablet. The first 50 patrons to register will also receive a special winter hat! Patrons can register by calling Liz Kelly at (800) 792-8322 ext. 805 or email [lkelly@njstatelib.org](mailto:lkelly@njstatelib.org).

## You're Invited:

### *NJSL Presents*

Enjoy these free virtual programs available to anyone. Advance registration is required.

- Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, 12 pm - [Archaeology and the Delaware Indians, a 12,000 year Odyssey](#)
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 12 pm - [Upskilling For My Next Job: Utilizing Government Funding to Pay the Way](#)
- Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, 12 pm - [Scams and Frauds: Don't Be a Victim!](#)

### *Library Director & Trustee Training*

Registration is now open for the December and January Library Director & Trustee Training webinars:

- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm - [Per Capita State Aid and the Annual Survey](#)
- Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm - [Current Cyber Threats and Best Practices with Krista Valenzuela](#)

### *The CSLP Summer Symposium*

This is a virtual offering for public library youth services and adult staff to connect, learn, and collaborate to plan for summer library programming around the 2024 adventure theme with the slogan "Adventure Begins at your Library." The event will be held on December 7, from 11 am – 4:30 pm. [Register here.](#) Questions? Email Sharon Rawlins at: [srawlins@njstatelib.org](mailto:srawlins@njstatelib.org).

### *JerseyClicks Webinars in January 2024*

Learn more about JerseyClicks databases, available to all New Jersey residents, at these informative webinars:

- Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm – [Peterson's Test and Career Prep – Resources for Junior and High Schoolers](#)
- Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm – [Top Tips for Finding Family History with HeritageQuest Online](#)
- Find more upcoming training opportunities [here](#).

## Get Involved:

### *NJSL staff presentations at the NJASL Fall Conference:*

Liz Burns and Jen Apgar will be presenting *Living Large: Large print resources for students with reading disabilities*, during the "Spark & Tell" Session 2, on Sun., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12 – 12:45 pm, Seminole Ballroom.

Liz Burns and Dr. Ellen Pozzi will be presenting *ALSC's Notable (Outstanding! Distinguished! Just Plain Great!) Children's Books* on Mon., Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 – 11:15 am, Tampa Studio ABC.

Sharon Rawlins will be presenting *Transforming Teens' Lives One at a Time* on Tues., Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:15 – 11 am.

Jen Apgar and Liz Burns will be presenting *Accessibility Unbound: services for students with reading disabilities and print disabilities* on Tues., Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:15 – 12 pm, Fort Pierce Salon B.