State Librarian’s Update
December 2023

The close of the year is always a time for reflection – 2023 is no different. I want to take a moment to extend my thanks to the staff of the New Jersey State Library and all of its components – the Research Library, Talking Book and Braille Center, Jersey Connect, Library Development and the Business and Facilities Office – for their creative commitment to providing services and meeting the needs of residents, state employees, TESU students and library staff.

2024 promises to be an interesting and busy year. We’re moving forward with grant making for the Capital Projects Fund, we will be reviewing Per Capita State Aid and Library Network Services regulations, and starting on our Information Literacy project.

I hope you will keep your eye out for opportunities to be involved in these or other projects that surface during the year. We appreciate the opportunity to work with all of you and learn from you. Thank you.

Happy New Year!

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

Additions to NJSL’s Digital Collection

The State Library Information Center purchased a Bookeye scanner, which was installed in November. This unit, along with a DT Versa that was installed over the summer, will be used to scan document collections related to New Jersey land use, the Port Authority of NY/NJ, historic maps and much more.

The Library recently acquired a few rare items to add to its collection including:

- The New-England primer, restored: to which are added the Westminster Assembly's shorter catechism; the account of the burning of John Rodgers; and several other pieces interesting and useful; copied chiefly from a London edition of 1771, which was written New Jersey clergyman, Rev. Eli F. Cooley.
- "Unlawful assembly" in Paterson: the trial and conviction of Roger N. Baldwin and seven silk strikers under a law passed in 1796
- The pamphlet License! or no license!: addressed to the citizens of New Jersey, in view of the election on the 1st Tuesday in Dec. 1847 issued by the Morris County Temperance Society in regard to voting ‘no’ to the sale of liquor in 1847.
If you’re wondering where to find local historic New Jersey newspapers that have been digitized, check our New Jersey Digitized Historic Newspapers libguide. Within the county listings you will find counties, towns and papers with information on date ranges and where you can access the papers.

**Ready Now: Supporting Youth and Families During Crisis Project**

The State Library has been accepted as one of five state agencies participating in this national IMLS funded project to focus on training and resources for the successful implementation of the Field Guide principles that were part of Phase 1 of this multi-year project. Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, will be working with Kellyanne Healy, the children’s librarian from the Lake Hiawatha branch of the Parsippany-Troy Hills Public Library, and her Youth Services Supervisor, Lizzie Latham, to participate in the research study. This phase will focus on serving immigrants, refugees, and those working to attain citizenship with resources to assist them in language learning and language affirmation.

**You Are Invited:**

**Patriots Week**

On December 28, join us online for our Patriot’s Week presentation by Dr. Jen Janofsky. This is a virtual talk titled, The Hessians are Coming? How a Discovery at the Red Bank Battlefield is Challenging Public History, and will be held 12 – 1 pm. Advance registration is required.

**Northstar Digital Literacy**

Theresa Sladek from Literacy Minnesota will be providing training on Northstar Digital Literacy in January and February. These sessions are open to all.

- **Overview of Northstar Features** - Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 10 am.
- **Incorporating Digital Literacy Routines into ELL Instruction** - Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 10 am.
- **Keeping Learners Motivated** - Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 10 am.

**Get Involved:**

**NJSL Talking Book and Braille Center**

Our TBBC provides no-cost, home-delivered services, on behalf of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled to children, teens and adults in New Jersey who have difficulty reading standard print or trouble holding a book. TBBC offers their patrons other services as well, such as this year’s Winter Reading challenge and a virtual book club. Check out our overview video here. TBBC staff travel all around New Jersey to promote the library. Please keep TBBC in mind when scheduling programs for staff and patrons. To schedule a speaker from TBBC, please contact us by phone at 800-792-8322 ext. 0, or by email at tbbc@njstatelib.org.