

# State Librarian's Update

## January 2024

I am excited to let you all know that the New Jersey State Library will be accepting applications for a new position – Associate Director for Strategic Initiatives. Reporting directly to me, this individual will serve as a conduit for statewide and national strategic initiatives, coordinating projects that leverage the strengths of the New Jersey State Library and its component parts, to advance library services to the people of New Jersey. The position will be posted soon; in the meantime, please reach out if you have any questions for me.

We held the first meetings of the Network Library Services and Per Capita State Aid regulation working groups in early January. The lively meetings allowed us to set the stage for our future conversations and to create shared expectations. Please keep an eye out for upcoming Listening Sessions that you can participate in. Or feel free to forward your thoughts to me for distribution to the relevant working group.

Finally, I hope that this new year brings each of you joy – both personal and professional – and the opportunity to make meaningful connections that fill your spirit.

Jen Nelson  
State Librarian

## Stay Informed:

### ***African American History Digitization Project***

In preparation for a small exhibit on the Still family from Burlington County, the National Museum of and Culture requested a digitized scan of a map from *Combination Atlas Map of Burlington County, New Jersey* by J.D. Scott, 1876, held in the State Library's collection. Our staff was able to produce a high-quality image of the map requested using the new digitization equipment acquired earlier in 2023.

### ***The NJ Attorney General's Library***

In 2023, the State Library took on management of the New Jersey Attorney General's Library. The Attorney General's Library exclusively serves the staff of the New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety. The AG's Library joins the Environmental Research Library of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, which is also managed by the State Library, in addressing unique research needs for two of the state's largest agencies. In addition, the State Library supports the Department of Transportation's Library by providing cataloging and circulation services.



P.O. BOX 520 | 185 WEST STATE STREET  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0520



609-278-2640



WWW.NJSTATELIB.ORG

### ***NJSL Research Guide for Social Services***

Do you know someone needing help with social services? Check out our [Get Help: New Jersey Social Services](#) guide that addresses a range of needs for people in New Jersey. The research guide contains tools for tough economic times and finding social services.

### ***Smokey Bear Reading Challenge***

The US Forest Service will be providing materials for a youth reading challenge to celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th birthday in 2024. This is a great tie-in to the CSLP Summer Reading adventure theme for 2024 and the slogan "Adventure Begins at Your Library," connecting families to outdoor activities, and state and national parks. Participation in this program is optional, however all public libraries will receive the packet of materials unless you specifically let Sharon Rawlins, [srawlins@njstatelib.org](mailto:srawlins@njstatelib.org), know you **do not** want them. The US Forest Service has also created a [digital toolkit](#). Libraries will be surveyed at the end of December 2024 to see if you participated and to ask for some basic statistics.

## **You Are Invited:**

### ***NJSL Presents Webinars***

The following virtual programs are all free and open to anyone to join. Advance Registration is required.

- [The Path to Freedom: Black Families in New Jersey](#), February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
- [Language of Flowers](#), February 6<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

### ***Understanding Public Assistance: FEMA's Program for non-profit organizations***

The NJ Cultural Alliance for Response (NJCAR) is pleased to host this free webinar, open to all libraries, museums, archives, and all historical and cultural institutions. On February 7, 2024, at 1:00 pm, Jennifer DiLorenzo, Branch Chief, Recovery Division of FEMA Region II, will explain FEMA's Public Assistance Program. This program provides supplemental grants to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, and certain types of private non-profits so communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies. [Register here](#).

### ***Virtual New Directors Orientation***

New Directors Training will take place on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Presentations will include library law, purchasing, working with trustees, marketing and public relations, budgeting, working with staff, understanding civil service, progressive staff discipline, and more! All library directors, both new and experienced, are welcome to attend. New directors are expected to attend both days. [Register here](#).

### ***JerseyClicks Training Webinars***

We are happy to announce training webinars for JerseyClicks resources in January and February 2024. Learn more and register for the webinars [here](#).

### ***Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment Training***

Theresa Sladek from Literacy Minnesota will be providing three training sessions on using Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment tool in January and February. These sessions are free and open to all. Topics include: Overview of Northstar, Incorporating Digital Literacy Routines into ELL Instruction, and Keeping Learners Motivated. Learn more and register [here](#).

## Get Involved:

### ***CSLP Theme and Slogan Suggestion***

Each year CSLP seeks feedback from participating public library staff for future summer slogans and theme suggestions. Libraries from across the nation also contribute, and together, we come to a consensus. Now is your time to be heard! Public library staff are invited to complete this brief survey: <https://forms.gle/ertcz2EMkqtvVC49>, to suggest a slogan for the 2027 theme of Mystery/Detective/Suspense and a fresh, new theme for 2028. The deadline to submit your suggestions is Friday, Feb. 16, 2024.