

State Librarian's Update

February 2024

The New Jersey State Library is part of a multi-state initiative that is exploring artificial intelligence (AI) in libraries and library service. Together with Don Means (Gigabit Libraries Network) and R. David Lankes (University of Texas-Austin), the yearlong project will engage researchers in identifying essential questions related to AI and seeking practical applications in addition to a theoretical understanding. We'll keep you posted on the project throughout the year.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

New Jersey and Local History Collections

If your library is weeding or downsizing your New Jersey or local history collection, please consider reaching out to the State Library to offer up those old, dusty volumes. While we continue to grow our digital holdings, we also continue to grow our historic print collections. Email us at refdesk@njstatelib.org.

NJSL Presents – Top 2023 Events

In 2023, NJSL hosted 52 programs through our NJSL Presents programming with 1,363 attendees, averaging about 26 attendees per program. Below is a list of the top three programs for the year:

- [Diving Deeper into Genetic Genealogy](#)
- [Finding Grant Funding with Foundation Directory](#)
- [Unconquered Spirit: The Lost Souls and the Other Slave Trade](#)

New Palace Project Collection – New Jersey Topics

All New Jersey Palace Project users now have access to a new digital lending collection - the New Jersey Topics shelf! This growing collection of ebooks and digital audiobooks features New Jersey biographies, inventions, events, photographs and much more. New Jersey users of the Palace app (available for iOS and Android at <https://thepalaceproject.org/>) can log in and access the collection, along with over 20,000 ebooks and digital audiobooks curated by the New Jersey State Library and the Digital Public Library of America. For more information, visit www.njstatelib.org/thepalaceproject. If you have questions, or if you are interested in becoming a participating library, please email palaceproject@njstatelib.org.



You Are Invited:

NJSL Presents – Upcoming Events

The following programs are virtual. Attendance is free and open to anyone. Pre-registration is required.

- February 28th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm - [Legal Resources at the New Jersey State Library](#) with Cynthia Lambert and Kelsey Allen, Law Librarians
- February 29th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm - [Introduction to Finding Grants](#) with Leigh Clark, Business and Funding Information Librarian
- March 6th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm - [Project Planning Work Search: A Practical Work Search Methodology](#) with Paul Cecala, Certified Global Career Development Facilitator, Cecala Career Consultants

Keeping Learners Motivated

On Thursday, February 29th, 10:00 am – 11:30am, Theresa Sladek from Literacy Minnesota is offering the following training webinar on adult learner motivation. All are welcome! In this training we will take a look at adult persistence learning theory and steps programs can take to keep adult learners motivated. [Register here.](#)

Virtual New Trustees Orientation

Orientation will take place on Saturday, March 23, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Presentations will include Library Law for Trustees, Roles & Responsibilities of Trustees, working with elected Officials, Policy Making & Personnel Matters, and Hiring & Evaluating the Library Director. Registration will open soon!

TBBC Updates

The New Jersey State Library's Talking Book and Braille Center will present the following at the New Jersey Library Association conference: A Week in the Life of an Accessible Library – May 30th; Literacy for All: Supporting Dyslexic and Neurodivergent Children and Teens in the Library (Jen Apgar presenting with Brie Mintz) – May 30th; Talking the Talk: Supporting & Valuing Bilingual Staff (Luisa Martucci will be on this panel) – May 30th; and ALSC's Notable (Outstanding! Distinguished! Just Plain Great!) Children's Books (Liz Burns presenting with Dr. Ellen Pozzi) – May 31st.

Is it time for a road trip? Visit the Museum of Early Trade and Crafts in Madison NJ to see the “What’s in the Vault? A Second Look” Exhibit, running until March 31, that includes materials and information from the Talking Book Braille Center.

Get Involved:

Public Library Summer Reading Workshops - Registration Open

The Statewide Summer Reading Committee has scheduled the dates for the 2024 Summer Reading Workshops for public library staff, two of which will be in person and one will be a virtual craft/activity session where all committee members and participants are invited to share ideas. The in-person workshops will start at 10:00 am, with registration at 9:30 am. The virtual session will start at 10:00 am.

- Friday, March 1st – Gloucester County Library, Mullica Hill (in-person)
- Friday, March 8th – Livingston Public Library (in-person)

- Wednesday, March 13th – Virtual Idea Sharing (10:00 am – noon)

Registration is now open on the NJ Summer Reading [website](#). You must be subscribed to the website to access the workshop registration page. For the in-person workshops, you're invited to bring a program idea, example of your reading logs and instructions, and/or craft sample to share with the group. You're also welcome to bring old prizes you can't get rid of for the Incentive Swap – and take home something new. Questions? E-mail njlasummerreading@gmail.com.

Miss Rumphius Award – Deadline to Apply March 15th

The New Jersey Center for the Book proudly presents the annual *Miss Rumphius Award*, based upon the title character of the National Book Award winner by Barbara Cooney. Directions for completing and submitting your application can be found [here](#). Also, check out [previous award winners here](#). The *Miss Rumphius Award* will be presented to the winner(s) at an upcoming library association meeting. A \$300 honorarium is offered to the winner(s). For additional information or clarification, please contact Sharon Rawlins at srawlins@njstatelib.org.