State Librarian's Update
March 2024

We're looking forward to hosting our first "community conversations" session to gather input related to the Library Network and Per Capita State aid regulations review process. Two working groups have been meeting monthly, discussing the regulations, what works well and what doesn't. Their work will eventually lead to proposed changes. But we'd like to hear from you, too. Please join us on April 17 or 18 for a community-wide discussion. You'll find it helpful to review the regulations prior to the meetings. The text of the regulations can be found at the following links: Per Capita State Aid and Library Network. The sessions are open to library staff (public, school, academic), trustees or other parties interested in the regulations. Here are links to register:

April 17th at 3:00 pm – Register Here
April 18th at 11:00 am – Register Here

I had the pleasure of presenting at the Edge2024 Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland on March 14. My talk was focused on Libraries: Prevention and Early Intervention, and connecting this to library work on digital inclusion and the social determinants of health. I am grateful I had the opportunity to connect with peers from across Europe, to discuss our shared goal of providing equitable opportunities for residents.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

NJ's Digital Collections
Community Conversations: New Jersey's COVID-19 Storytelling Project, found in the State Library's NJ State Digital Publications collection, is now also pointed to from the Library of Congress's Stories from the COVID-19 Pandemic resource guide. NJ's collection was built between 2020-2022 and includes personal accounts of COVID-19 experiences told through audio and video recordings, artwork, poetry, essays and other written accounts. It tells complex and personal stories from NJ residents, first responders, students and others during a remarkable time period in recent world history.

NJSL's Funding Information Center
For libraries or patrons seeking grant information for individuals, beginning on March 27, the database "Grants to Individuals" will no longer be available as a unique resource. Instead, it is being merged into

Candid's "Foundation Directory Professional" database, which is available onsite at the State Library and other Funding Information Network libraries.

NJSL's Catalog
The State Library's [public catalog](#) was updated recently. Users will find the interface easier to navigate and with responsive design that works well with a smart phone or tablet.

NJ Center for the Book
The New Jersey Center for the Book (NJCB), an affiliate of the United States Library of Congress, will bestow its coveted Literary Landmark Award upon the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center in Red Bank, New Jersey on Saturday, March 23, 2024. The ceremony will commence at 1:30 PM and will run concurrent with a second event called 'The Black Press Expanding Exhibit: Shaping Black Identity and Black Influence'. Attendees on behalf of the NJCB will include its chairman, New Jersey author Wil Mara, as well as its vice chair, Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist at the New Jersey State Library. To learn more about the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center, please visit https://www.tthomasfortuneculturalcenter.org/. For more about the New Jersey Center for the Book, visit https://njcenterforthebook.org/.

You Are Invited:

NJSL Presents
The following programs are virtual and free to anyone. Pre-registration is required.
- [Introduction to Proposal Writing](#) - March 19th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
- [Introduction to Brain Injury](#) - March 27th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
- [Distracted Driving: Tips for Road Safety](#) - April 12th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
- [Garden State Gangland: The Rise of the Mob in New Jersey](#) - April 23rd, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Virtual New Trustees Orientation
Orientation will take place on Saturday, March 23rd, 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. [Register Here](#)

JerseyConnect Resources for Your Library
This presentation, taking place on March 26th, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm, will review services offered by JerseyConnect. In addition to high-speed network access, JerseyConnect offers expert support and a range of cloud services tailored for your library. [Register Here](#)

Five-Part Community Focused Strategic Planning Virtual Series
Registration is now open for the free, five-part Community Focused Strategic Planning Virtual Series presented by Alliance Research. This is the program that was mentioned during the February Director and Trustee Training webinar. Registering for this session registers you for all five sessions in this series. It is mandatory that the library director and at least one library trustee commit to attending all five sessions. To see what this series of trainings will be like please view the following [video](#). Sessions include all recordings and templates (project timeline, internal and external data gathering, strategic plan document, and action plan). [Register Here](#). If you have any questions about this webinar please contact either Bob Keith at rkeith@njstatelib.org or Michele Stricker at mstricker@njstatelib.org.