State Librarian’s Update
April 2024

The New Jersey State Library is partnering with 14 other state libraries on an artificial intelligence project out of the University of Texas Austin. State Library Agencies Artificial Intelligence Tools (SLAAIT) is a think tank of sorts, with research assistance provided by CIRCL. Participating state libraries are using this project to delve deeply into the possible applications of artificial intelligence in library work, broadly speaking. As the project moves forward I will be looking for opportunities for New Jersey libraries to be involved – please let me know if it is something you’re interested in.

I’m pleased to introduce you to my new assistant, Stephanie Kowalski (skowalski@njstatelib.org). Don’t be surprised if you hear from Stephanie about scheduling meetings or visits. She’s eager to meet all of the wonderful folks in New Jersey’s library community, so don’t be shy.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

Digital Publications Library
We’ve got a new look at our New Jersey State Digital Publications Library! On April 1st, our Digital Publications Library was migrated to DSpace 7, which has a cleaner look and allows us better organizational options for collections. Whether you’re looking for postcards from New Jersey towns, photos of state officials from the 1876 centennial, or any number of NJ state documents or reports, you will now have an easier time navigating and searching for the unique content held in these collections.

Genealogy Collection
The State Library Information Center received a donation of over 100 African American genealogy books and documents from the Princeton Public Library. These items will be incorporated into our genealogy collection over the coming months.
You Are Invited:

NJSL Presents

The following programs are all free and open to the public. Each virtual program is scheduled for 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Money Smart Week April 15th – April 19th:

- April 16th – Financial Planning During Your Lifetime
- April 18th – Vehicles of Financial Planning
- April 19th – Roth After-tax vs Traditional Pre-tax Contributions

Upcoming Author Talks:

- April 23rd – Garden State Gangland: The Rise of the Mob in New Jersey
- May 7th – Japanese American Experiences at Seabrook Farms

CSLP Listening Sessions for 2027 Slogan and 2028 Theme

All CSLP member public library staff are invited to contribute thoughts about future summer themes and slogans. This month, you will have two virtual opportunities to give feedback on a slogan for 2027’s theme (Mystery/Detective/Suspense) and a theme for 2028. Register for one of two listening sessions in April by clicking on the links below. Ahead of the meeting, you can review the top 25 options for 2027 slogans and 2028 themes. Help narrow it down to the ten that will be voted on by State Reps at the annual CSLP meeting! You can see the themes and slogans that will be discussed here.

Slogan/Theme Listening Session Option #1 – Thursday, April 18th, 4:00 p.m. EDT

Slogan/Theme Listening Session Option #2 – Tuesday, April 23rd, 2:00 p.m. EDT

E-Resources Survey Now Open

All New Jersey library personnel are invited to participate in an E-Resources Survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NJSL24JC. Thank you for participating in this survey concerning the JerseyClicks suite of databases, available to all New Jersey residents at www.jerseyclicks.org. Your feedback is important to the New Jersey State Library, as we consider the needs of the library community in selecting future statewide resources. This survey was created through the volunteer work and participation of the E-Resources Advisory Committee, a group comprised of representatives from New Jersey academic, public and school libraries. The survey should take about five minutes to complete. Please respond by May 13, 2024.