

State Librarian's Update

April 2025

We are counting down the weeks until the New Jersey Library Association Annual Conference in May, and hope you'll join us at NJSL staff presentations and stop by our booth in the exhibitor's hall. We'll have a schedule of individuals staffing the booth available, so you can time your visit if you'd like to check in with someone in particular.

The State Librarian's program will be held on Thursday at 4:10 pm this year. Joining us virtually from Australia, the speaker is Daniel Aldrich. Daniel is at Northeastern University and as a trained political scientist, focuses his research and writing on resilience. I was introduced to Daniel a couple of years ago and was fascinated by the conversation. I hope you'll be able to join us. And don't forget to mark your calendar for the State Librarian's Breakfast on Friday morning at 8 am. As we've done in recent years, you'll hear some updates from the State Library and, importantly, have a chance to connect with colleagues in a low-key environment.

Be sure to check the schedule for presentations by several NJSL staff, including Andrea Levandowski, Sharon Rawlins, and Michael Maziendien from Library Development, and colleagues Leigh Clark and Caitlyn Cook from NJSL's Research Library. The presentations all look interesting, and staff are excited to share their work with you.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

Digitization Projects

NJSL's Research Library has met a milestone in the number of pages digitized both in-house and through a vendor. This work is being funded with both federal and state funds. More than 1 million pages have been digitized since the summer of 2023 as part of the "Telling New Jersey's Untold Stories" project partially funded by the National Archives and Records Administration. Librarians are slowly going through all the resulting digital documents and applying metadata to support discovery in our [New Jersey State Publications Digital Library](https://www.njstatelib.org/new-jersey-state-publications-digital-library). This project will continue for several years to come.

Tax, Financial, and Estate Planning Resources



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609-278-2640



[WWW.NJSTATELIB.ORG](https://www.njstatelib.org)

April is tax time! During this time of year, you or your patrons may be interested in some of the following programs related to tax, financial, and estate planning:

- [Roth After-tax vs Traditional Pre-tax Contributions](#)
- [Vehicles of Financial Planning](#)
- [Estate Planning Bootcamp Part 1](#)
- [Estate Planning Bootcamp Part 2](#)

Historic Documents on Tariffs

With the continual discussion of tariffs in today's news, researchers may be interested in reading a speech given by a New Jersey Republican Congressman, Hon. Charles N. Fowler, back in April 1909 when he spoke before the Tariff Commission. The title of his speech was "Tariff Changes by Evolution and Not by Revolution" and is available through the [New Jersey State Publications Digital Library](#). There are several other historic and contemporary state documents that address tariffs that can be found in this digital library.

Updated Research Guides

In response to current events, we recently updated our [Get Help: New Jersey Social Services](#) research guide with additional information on [Immigration](#). This guide offers information on a variety of topics impacting people across the state. Additionally, we added a new section to our [U.S. Government](#) research guide called [Archived Federal Websites and Data](#), to help users navigate changes made to federal government websites and data portals since the 2025 presidential transition.

TBBC's Winter Reading Program

NJSL's Talking Book & Braille Center had over 40 participants in this year's 2025 Chilly Chapters Winter Reading Challenge. A total of 955 books were read this year; an increase from last year's 800 books. Each participant got a pair of gloves with the TBBC logo, eight book lists created by TBBC staff, and at least one chance to win a \$100 Visa Gift Card. Erica Edelman won the gift card. A tactile chess set was also presented to Laurie Neidhart, for reading the most books! The prizes were provided by the Friends of the Library.

NLS Visit

On March 10th and 11th, MaryBeth Wise and Henry Malone from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress visited TBBC. During this visit, MaryBeth and Henry met with TBBC staff about our current programs and patron outreach.

Palace Project Update

The list of Palace Project [participating libraries](#) has been updated; the Otto Bruyns Public Library of Northfield is the latest addition. Participation has continued to increase as well with 3,820 new NJ patrons having signed up for Palace Project access since January 1, 2025.

Per Capita State Aid

The 2025 Per Capita State Aid Annual Survey has closed. Thank you very much to everyone who submitted their data and forms.

Library Directors & Trustees

Director and Trustee Training webinars are being planned. Be sure to watch the NJ-Pub-Libs listserv for information about registering.

You're Invited:

Upcoming NJSL Presents Events

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

- April 2, 12 – 1 pm, [Legal Research Databases at the NJ State Library](#)
- April 9, 12 – 1 pm, [The Mysteries of the 1777 Battle of Navesink](#)
- April 14, 10 – 11:30 am, [Understanding Your Pension Benefits for PERS Members](#)
- April 16, 12 – 1 pm, [Listen More, Talk Less: A Key to Career Success](#)
- April 12, 12 – 1 pm, [Introduction to Proposal Writing](#)
- April 23, 12 – 1 pm, [Coping with Deer](#)

Palace Project Webinar

A Palace Project-related webinar has been scheduled by Lyris and is open to all New Jersey library workers. Hear from representatives on technical improvements, business relationships, and new content to look forward to. This webinar is open to everyone, so attendees need not be affiliated with a Palace partner library. [Spring Updates Webinar](#) – Tues., April 22nd, at 2 pm.

Get Involved:

Join the New Jersey Digital Skills Training User Group!

This is a monthly gathering of library staff who teach computer classes, offer device assistance, work with Northstar Digital Literacy, or want to explore digital inclusion strategies. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month from 10 – 11 am to discuss work, ask questions, and learn together. [Register here.](#)

Summer Color Our World Writing Contest

Katherine Applegate, Newbery Medalist and #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author, is the Collaborative Summer Library Program [2025 Summer Reading Champion](#)! Together with the Collaborative Summer Library Program and Katherine Applegate, we're hosting a [Summer Color Our World Writing Contest](#) for kids ages 8-12. Sign up to receive a [free promotional kit](#) while supplies last.

National CSLP Wordsmithing Sessions for CSLP Member Public Libraries

Do you adore wordsmithing all the words and phrases? Do you love wordplay? Staff from CSLP member public libraries are welcome to join the Theme & Slogan Committee for a deep dive into developing the short list of slogan options for 2028's Mythical Creatures theme and the 2029 theme. Two Zoom sessions are being offered (you only need to attend one) to try and get input from as many libraries as possible.

- [Register for the April 9th Session here](#) (4:00 pm ET)

- [Register for the April 17th Session here](#) (1:00 pm ET)

Miss Rumphius Award

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. The award seeks to amplify the work of exemplary librarians, library staff, library students, and school librarians who implement creative and engaging programs to improve their environments. The candidate must be employed in New Jersey as a professional librarian, library staff member, library student, certified educator, or teacher assistant, and must have developed a creative activity or program to enhance learning and literacy. A \$300 honorarium will be presented to the winner(s) at an upcoming library association meeting. Directions for completing and submitting your application can be found [here](#). The deadline to apply is April 15, 2025. For additional information or clarification, please contact Sharon Rawlins at srawlins@njstatelib.org.