

State Librarian's Update

December 2025

I always find that Thanksgiving is more a time of reflection than the New Year is. Gratitude is important to me, not just on Thanksgiving, but as a daily practice. I've found that finding something to express gratitude for each day – no matter how insignificant – keeps me in a positive and hopeful mindset. And yes, on some days it feels almost impossible to find anything, yet I always manage to. Whether it is a brief glimpse of the sun on an otherwise gloomy day, the kindness of strangers, or the daily efforts that NJSL staff make to best serve our patrons, the opportunity for gratitude is there. As you think about moving into the New Year, reflecting on 2025 and looking ahead to 2026, I encourage you to look for something to be grateful for every day. It makes a difference.

It has been a year full of ups and downs at the New Jersey State Library – primarily, in everyone's mind has been the uncertainty around federal funding. With the way that we budget our federal funds, we are fully funded through September 2026. We are actively planning for a variety of contingencies and feel confident we will weather whatever happens.

My best to you and yours in this holiday season and well into the New Year.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

Revolutionary War LibGuide

Check out our [Revolutionary War LibGuide](#) that highlights some items from our maps, genealogy, NJ history, and US documents collections. As we look to begin celebrating our state's 250th birthday, you'll find some fun and interesting content in this guide.

Digitized Historical Paper Collection

The NJSL Research Library team has been digitizing our very fragile collection of the [New Jersey Gazette](#), which was the historical paper of record for New Jersey from Dec. 5, 1777 (vol. 1, issue 1) through the Revolutionary War and beyond into the early 1800s. We hope to complete the digitization of our collection of this title in the first quarter of 2026.



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TBBC Update

TBBC's recent outreach included attending the CSP Annual Resource Fair in East Orange; participating in the Week of Health, Consulate of Columbia, Newark; and showcasing our resources at the Lincoln Park Library's Special Needs Resource Fair. If your organization or group is having a resource fair and is interested in having TBBC at their event, please email TBBC@njstatelib.org.

You're Invited:

Upcoming Training Webinars for JerseyClicks Databases

The New Jersey State Library continues its commitment to training opportunities for statewide resources with two December webinars.

- [The New EBSCO Experience Manager and EBSCOAdmin](#) – Dec. 9th at 2:00 pm
Learn how to navigate these administrative tools to manage interface configuration, searching customization, usage reporting, and more for your EBSCO resources.
- [Gale 101: Get to Know Gale Presents: Peterson's Test and Career Prep](#) – Dec. 10th at 2:00 pm
Get a comprehensive tour of this powerful resource for academic and career success. Learn how to navigate test prep, career tools, resume builders, and more—all available through JerseyClicks. Register to attend live or receive a link to the recording.

Upcoming NJSL Presents Events

Join us for the following programs that are free and available to anyone. Registration is required.

- [Introduction to Proposal Writing](#) – Dec 9th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
- [10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's](#) – Dec 10th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
- [RetireReady NJ: Your Path to a Secure Retirement](#) – Dec 18th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Patriots Week Virtual Author Talk

Check out our special Patriots Week Virtual Author talk event on December 29th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, [Winning the Ten Crucial Days: The Keys to Victory in George Washington's Legendary Winter Campaign](#). In his book, David Price, a historical interpreter for the Friends of Washington Crossing Park, tells the story of the winter campaign of 1776-77 that led to independence for the American colonies. This program kicks off our NJ250 programming series.

Get Involved:

Join the Community of Practice (CoP) to Discuss Teaching Information Literacy in New Jersey

Anyone who works with youth in school, public, or academic libraries is invited to register to join the NJ State Library-sponsored monthly virtual Community of Practice (CoP) meetups. These sessions offer an opportunity to connect with colleagues, share ideas, and explore strategies to strengthen information literacy programming for youth. The [CoP meetups](#) will be held on the second Tuesday of each month beginning December 9th, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Digital Skills User Group

The Digital Skills User Group will meet on Monday, December 15th, from 2:30-3:30 pm. This group is for any library staff member who is interested in helping patrons with technology. During the next meeting, we will review the past year of digital skills instruction. What went well? What were your successes? What did you learn? What would you do differently? We will also set goals and New Year's resolutions for 2026 to improve technology services to the public. [Click here to register](#). Questions? Contact Andrea Levandowski: alevandowski@njstatelib.org.

Introducing Money Smart for Life

Join the State Library to promote financial literacy information and resources for all ages during Financial Literacy Month in April 2026. Money Smart for Life is NJSL's statewide initiative to showcase how libraries support financial education and wellbeing in their communities.

Coming Soon!

- Resources: Discover financial literacy websites and tools in one place!
- Professional Development: Attend webinars on financial literacy topics!
- Statewide Reach: Host financial literacy programs at your library!

Stay updated through the NJSL website: www.njstatelib.org/moneysmart. If you have questions, contact Andrea Levandowski (alevandowski@njstatelib.org) or Sharon Rawlins (srawlins@njstatelib.org).