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NJ STATE LIBRARY
An affiliate of Thomas Edison State University

State Librarian's Update

March 2026

The New Jersey State Library (NJSL) is pleased to publish its first-ever online exhibition. Comprised of historical documents related to the state's three constitutional periods, it is our contribution to celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary. The library's collections, dating back to 1796, are a treasure trove for researchers, genealogists, and history buffs. We're fortunate to have digitized some of our materials to expand access. Our digitization program is led by Caitlin Cook, and I encourage you to reach out to Caitlin if you have technical questions about digitization. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience.

I hope you'll consider joining us for the April 2026 sessions of The Pillars of Information Literacy, a series of online trainings that build knowledge and skills in librarians of all types. The sessions are part of a multi-year IMLS-funded project, Teaching Information Literacy, which will also feature a two-day online forum, Reimagining Information Literacy, on July 14 and 15. Registration will be open soon, and we have a great lineup of speakers on information literacy and related topics, including artificial intelligence.

Up-to-date information, including workshop registration, about Teaching Information Literacy is posted on our website and updated regularly.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

TBBC's Luisa Martucci Named NJLA Rising Star for 2026
Luisa Martucci, the Hispanic Outreach Coordinator at NJSL's Talking Book and Braille Center, was the recipient of the Rising Star Award at the NJLA/NJASL Joint Conference held at the Hard Rock Casino in Atlantic City on February 19th. This award is open to librarians, paraprofessionals, and students. It recognizes one or more deserving individuals for innovative and creative work in a New Jersey library in the last twelve months. Read more about Luisa's accomplishments here.

NJ250 Digital Exhibit: State History through Three Constitutions
As the nation marks 250 years since the Revolution, to honor NJ's journey, the New Jersey State Library and New Jersey State Archives have unveiled a new digital exhibit examining the three distinct

constitutional eras that shape our state's identity. Our collection of digital exhibits invites you to discover several chapters of New Jersey's extraordinary story. We hope you will gain a deeper appreciation for how our state's constitutions have evolved and why those changes matter. We encourage you to explore our rich collections that preserve this state's remarkable history. Check it out here: www.njstatelib.org/nj250.

New Jersey Gazette Digital Collection
The State Library's entire collection of the *New Jersey Gazette* (1777 – 1801) has been digitized and can now be viewed in our Digital Jerseyana collection. We've discovered a fascinating story about an enslaved man named Adam and his enslaver, David Cowell, a Trenton physician, and two court cases surrounding his unsuccessful release from slavery. We will continue researching this story, post about it, and share the documents in future publications.

NJ Governor's Office Collection
The NJSL team was able to capture many materials ahead of the Governor's transition in January 2026 and has started a collection for Governor Mikie Sherrill. The collection includes Governor Mikie Sherrill's press releases, executive orders, speeches, and Transition Action Team Reports.

You're Invited:

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

- March 11th, 12:00 – 1:00 pm: Mary Climbs In: The Journeys of Bruce Springsteen's Women Fans
- March 18th, 12:00 – 1:00 pm: "Know Your Rights" Part 3 – Disability and Places of Public Accommodations
- March 23rd, 12:00 – 1:00 pm: The Truth About Garden Myths
- March 25th, 12:00 – 1:00 pm: Healthy Living for your Mind and Body
- April 1st, 12:00 – 1:00 pm: Introduction to Proposal Writing
- April 9th, 12:00 – 1:00 pm: The Delaware River: An Immigrant History

Upcoming Training Webinar for JerseyClicks Databases
The New Jersey State Library continues its commitment to training opportunities for statewide resources with this March webinar. Registration is not required. Use the following link at the time of the event.

- Using Reference Solutions' Newest Module: Universal Search – Tuesday, March 10th, 2:00 pm
  Learn more about the Universal Search database, which provides flexibility to search for businesses and consumers simultaneously. This new module will allow patrons using it to search in two places at once.

Public Library 2026 Summer Reading Workshops
The Statewide Summer Reading Committee has scheduled the dates for the 2026 Summer Reading Workshops, funded by the NJ State Library, for public library staff who work with children, teens, and adults. The workshops are in-person and virtual. Committee members will present their craft/activity ideas at the virtual workshop, where attendees are invited to share ideas. The in-person workshop will start at 10 am, with registration at 9:30 am.

- Friday, March 13, 2026 – Cherry Hill Public Library (in-person at 10 am)
- Wednesday, March 18, 2026 – Virtual Idea Sharing (10 am – noon)

Registration is open on the NJ Statewide Summer Reading website. You must be a website subscriber to access the workshop registration page. For the in-person workshops, you are invited to bring a program idea, an example of your reading logs and instructions, and/or a craft sample to share with the group. You are also welcome to bring old prizes you would like to give away for the Incentive Swap – and take home something new. Questions? Email njlasummerreading@gmail.com.

Digital Skills User Group
The Digital Skills User Group will meet on Monday, March 16th, from 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm. This group is for any library staff member who is interested in helping patrons with technology. During our next meeting, we will discuss the Public Library Association's tool DigitalLearn.org and explore how it compares to other digital skills curricula, including Northstar. Join representatives from libraries that have received awards from PLA to host workshops using the DigitalLearn.org platform with their patrons to take a closer look at this free resource. Contact Andrea Levandowski (alevandowski@njstatelib.org) to register.

CSLP Theme & Slogan Wordsmithing Listening Sessions for Public Libraries
Do you adore wordsmithing all the words and phrases? 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 2029's Nature theme and the 2030 theme (TBD). We're offering two Zoom sessions (but you only have to attend one) to get input from as many libraries as possible.

- Register for the March 24th Session here (4:00 pm ET)
- Register for the April 8th Session here (1:00 pm ET)

Information Literacy Webinar Series – Round 3
Registration is now open for the next round of Pillars of Information Literacy training sessions, taking place in April on Wednesdays from 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm. Click each session to register and reserve your spot.

- Pillar 1: Information Need, April 8th
- Pillar 2: Information Identification and Evaluation, April 15th
- Pillar 3: Information Use, April 22nd
- Pillar 4: Information Creation and Distribution, April 29th

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) meet ups. These sessions offer an opportunity to connect with colleagues, share ideas, and explore strategies to strengthen information literacy programming for youth. The CoP meet ups will be held on the second Tuesday of each month from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. Register for upcoming meet ups here.

Library Equal Access Program (LEAP)
Registration is still open for spring LEAP classes (March through May 2026). LEAP is a series of free classes sponsored by the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. These classes are for individuals aged 55 and over who have had a loss in vision, and they teach about accessibility tools on iPads, such as Siri and VoiceOver. Classes are held at public libraries throughout the state and require registration. More information is available on the NJSL website.

Get Involved:

Money Smart for Life Awards
The Money Smart for Life Award is designed to recognize libraries coordinating programs that support financial literacy education to community members of any age. Submit an application to nominate your library's financial literacy program (programs must be held between July 1, 2025, and May 15, 2026). This opportunity is offered as part of the State Library's Money Smart for Life initiative, which encourages libraries to host a financial literacy event during Financial Literacy Month in April 2026. The deadline for this award application is June 5, 2026**.** More information is available at: www.njstatelib.org/moneysmart. If you have questions, contact Andrea Levandowski (alevandowski@njstatelib.org) or Sharon Rawlins (srawlins@njstatelib.org).

TBBC Traveling Display
The TBBC Display will be at the New Milford Public Library for the month of March. NJ libraries are invited to sign up to host the display, which features both historical and current equipment and materials used by individuals with print disabilities. This educational exhibit is a great way for public libraries to highlight accessible reading technologies and the history of inclusive library services. We are booked through the end of 2026 and taking requests for 2027. Contact Liz Kelly via email at lkelly@njstatelib.org, or call (800) 792-8322 ext. 805 for more information.