Connecting people with information through libraries

NJ STATE LIBRARY
An affiliate of Thomas Edison State University

State Librarian's Update

June 2026

REIMAGINING INFORMATION LITERACY
MEDIA | VISUAL | TEXTUAL | DIGITAL | TECHNOLOGICAL

Since 2023, the New Jersey State Library has been working on "Teaching Information Literacy," an IMLS-funded project that is supporting the state's implementation of K-12 student information literacy learning standards.

As part of our efforts to inform, educate, and engage people, we are holding a free virtual National Forum on July 14-15. Called Reimagining Information Literacy, speakers and panelists from across the country will explore a variety of aspects of information literacy, going beyond New Jersey's approach.

We will be joined by speakers such as Crosby Kemper, former director of IMLS; Chris Coward of the University of Washington; and Beth Simone Noveck, New Jersey's Chief Artificial Intelligence Strategist and a professor at Northeastern University.

You can register at this link: https://reimagininglitera cy.cmpinc.net/. Please reach out if you have questions.

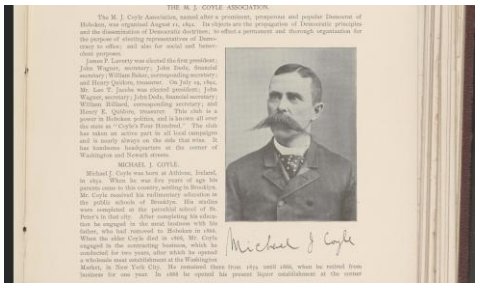
Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

New Rare Book Added to NJSL Collection
The State Library recently acquired an original copy of a slave manumission from December 27, 1799, from Trenton, NJ, titled *The Manumission of Fanny as Requested by Ebenezer Rose - December 27, 1799, Township of Trenton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey.* Manumission is the formal, voluntary act of a slave owner setting an enslaved person free. It differs from emancipation and abolition, which refer to the freeing of slaves through broader government action rather than by individual enslavers. This document includes 3 pages and declares and confirms the manumission of Fanny, an enslaved woman owned by Ebenezer Rose of the Township of Trenton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Read more about the document in the NJSL catalog, including a transcription of the pages. There is little information

regarding Fanny and Ebenezer Rose available. If you have more information to share, contact NJSL librarian Andrew Dauphinee: adauphinee@njstatelib.org.

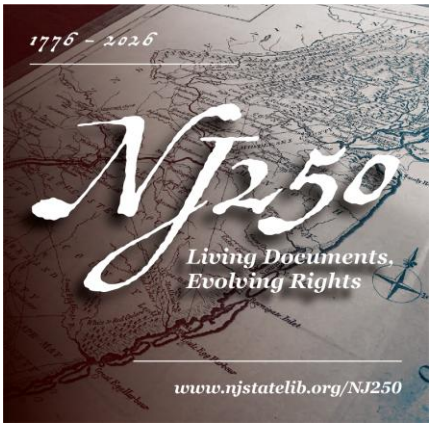
Recent Addition to NJSL's Digital Collection



We continue to deliver New Jersey's history to people through our digital collections. A recent addition to check out includes: *The Evening News and Hoboken: the record of the progress of the Hoboken Evening News together with the history of the city of Hoboken, from its settlement to the present time*. The title page of the document includes the statement "Profusely Illustrated" and, boy, do they deliver. There are many photos of men from the late 1800s with amazing whiskers! Check out Michael Coyle's mustache on page 109, or Malcolm Niven's on page 129, or Clement De R. Leonard's facial hair on page 131. These beards and mustaches are pretty wild and probably took a lot of time and maintenance.

NJ250 Digital Exhibit – May 2026 Recap

New Jersey turns 250 years old on July 2, 2026! Celebrate New Jersey's 250th birthday by exploring our NJ250 digital exhibit. Looking at our first constitutional era, you'll discover rich details on a landmark historic court case about seditious words. You'll learn about the importance of almanacs to farmers, housewives, business people, and other folks who relied on the shared wisdom and data maintained in these vital resources. See some of the significant documents of the Revolutionary period in the context of where battles took place around the state. Check out the new June exhibits we've shared. Stay tuned, as we continue to debut content monthly!



Revolutionary Era (1776 - 1844) – East and West Jersey, their impact decades after proprietary colonies dissolved

Reform Era (1844 – 1947) – Did the 1844 Constitution Emancipate Slaves in New Jersey?

Codex of the Endangered Species Act Series

Recently, our Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Research Library added the *Codex of the Endangered Species Act Series*. This two-volume series is essentially an encyclopedia of the Endangered Species Act. It details and explains the history, legislation, and implementation of the act in vol. 1 and looks to the future of the act in vol. 2. You can track hard-to-find information and learn how to view the act from many angles (species, sustainable development, economic, environmental protection, wildlife management, etc.). The catalog record for volume 1 is found here, and volume 2 is found here.

Updates from the Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC)

- *Quarterly Newsletter* – TBBC's latest Quarterly Highlights Newsletter is now available online and contains news, updates, and an American Revolution booklist of audio and braille books available from TBBC. Stay connected and informed by subscribing to our TBBC Quarterly Highlights Newsletter, designed with accessibility in mind.

- *Summer Reading Program* – Stay tuned for more details about TBBC's Summer Reading Program! Running from mid-June through mid-August, the program is designed for TBBC patrons of all ages. Participants will be encouraged to complete a variety of activities for a chance to earn a TBBC picnic blanket. Resources will also be available in Spanish, so the fun is accessible to even more of the community. Stay tuned, more information is on the way!

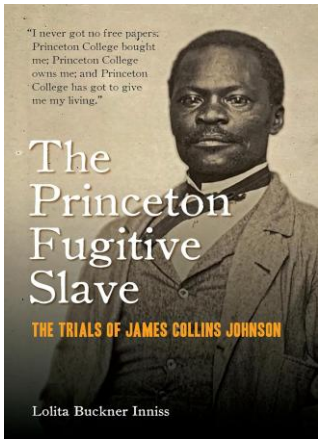
- *Traveling Display* – The TBBC traveling display is currently on exhibit at the Roxbury Public Library in Succasunna, NJ. The display highlights the resources and services available through TBBC, which provides accessible reading materials to individuals who are unable to read standard print due to a visual or physical disability. We encourage community members to stop by the library to learn more about this valuable program and the materials it offers. Libraries interested in hosting the TBBC display at their location are welcome to do so beginning January 2027. For more information on scheduling the display at your library, please contact Liz Kelly at (800) 792-8322 ext. 805 or lkelly@njstatelib.org.

You're Invited:

NJSL Presents Events

Join us for our free programs. Webinars take place from 12:00 – 1:00 pm. Registration is required.

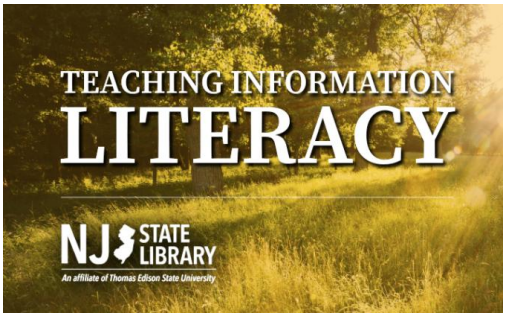
- June 9th: Genealogy of a Patriot: The Stories of Benjamin Flynn and Oliver Cromwell
- June 12th: Leading Across the Generations: Building Effective Multi-Generational Team
- June 16th: Retirement Planning for PERS and TPAF Members: State Employees
- June 24th: Virtual Author Talk – The Princeton Fugitive Slave: The Trials of James Collins Johnson
- June 30th: The Battle of Monmouth Courthouse: The Last Great Revolutionary War Battle in the North



Digital Skills User Group
The Digital Skills User Group will meet on Monday, June 15, from 2:30-3:30 pm. This group is for any library staff member who is interested in helping patrons with technology. During our June meeting, we will discuss AI. How does your library teach AI as part of digital literacy? What resources are available to inform patrons about AI safety? Do you use AI to develop your class materials? Join us for a conversation and an opportunity to ask your questions! Register here. Questions? Contact Andrea Levandowski: alevandowski@njstatelib.org.

Get Involved:

New Jersey Youth Services Survey
This short survey is designed to get a better understanding of what topics or trainings are of interest to youth services library staff members in public libraries. Click to fill out the Youth Services Survey from the New Jersey State Library. If you have any questions, contact Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, NJ State Library.

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 are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. The next meet-up is June 9, 2026. Register for the meetup here.