

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries
August 11, 2025

State Library Updates

State Librarian's Update - August 2025

Please take a moment to read the [August 2025 New Jersey State Library update](#).

Proposed Changes to N.J.A.C. 15:21 and 15:22

Over the last year, several library staff members from across the state participated in a review and update of the New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C.), N.J.A.C. 15:21 State Library Aid and Grants, and N.J.A.C. 15:22 Library Network Services. The [proposed changes are available for public comment](#) and published in the August 4, 2025, NJ Register. Comments may be submitted through **October 3, 2025**.

Interlibrary Loan Focus Groups

The New Jersey State Library currently seeks volunteers from New Jersey libraries to participate in a series of Interlibrary Loan Focus Groups in 2025 and 2026. The purpose of the Interlibrary Loan Focus Groups is to discuss, share and evaluate ideas related to [JerseyCat, the statewide interlibrary loan program](#)

provided by the New Jersey State Library. This request is open to all New Jersey libraries; participation is limited to staff members most directly involved in Interlibrary Loan services. These groups will meet between September 2025 and June 2026. Attendance at up to four virtual meetings, as well as one in-person workshop, will be expected. Please fill out the survey by **Friday, August 22, 2025** to let us know if you're interested. [Take the JerseyCat survey](#).

JerseyClicks Intent Announcement

Based on a thorough review of the bids submitted in response to the Request for Quotations for JerseyClicks Databases issued on November 27, 2024, it is the intent of the New Jersey State Library to make awards to the following vendors, for the services referenced therein, in accordance with their bid proposals: EBSCO Information Services, Gale, Data Axle, and Proquest.

These awards are contingent upon the execution of written agreements between the above referenced vendors and the New Jersey State Library. Pending the execution of these agreements, all selected resources will be available through Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (ending September 30, 2026), with options for one-year renewals through Federal Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028. [JerseyClicks.org](#) is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the New Jersey Library Network. [View the full list of vendors available](#).

Expanding Digital Literacy Grant Program

Applications are now being accepted for the New Jersey State Library's Expanding Digital Literacy grant program. Public libraries can apply for up to \$25,000 to develop and implement digital skills programs in their communities. Selected projects will increase confidence and technology skills in participants, with a focus on underserved populations, including seniors, English language learners, low-income households, individuals with disabilities, and others as identified by the applicant. NJSL estimates that \$100,000 is available for approximately 4-6 grants. The deadline to apply is **September 12, 2025** at 11:59 p.m. [View guidelines and application instructions](#).

Questions should be directed to grants@njstatelib.org with the subject "Expanding Digital Literacy."

How to Create Better Hyperlinks for Accessibility

Learn why NJ libraries should ditch “Click Here” for good. [Read our latest marketing blog post](#) for tips on how to make link text clearer and more effective for everyone.

News from Around the State

NJ Treasury's Grants Management Office Programming

The NJ Treasury's [Grant Management Office](#) offers helpful tools for finding and managing grants. Plus, they just started offering grant-related programming. Their next event will be **September 10th at 1:00 p.m.**, covering best practices for documenting grant impact and success. [Register for the September 10th Grants Management Webinar](#).

National Opportunities

The Second Lady's 2025 Summer Reading Challenge

There is still time for K-8 students to participate in Second Lady Usha Vance's Summer Reading Challenge. [Click here for a video introduction to the challenge](#). Participants are required to read 12 books of their choice, either independently or with a family member/adult, and [use the fillable Reading Log to track progress](#). Once all 12 books have been read, participants are asked to write or draw a picture reflecting on what they read.

Completed and signed submission forms and reading logs must be emailed to read@mail.whit.ehouse.gov by **September 5th**. Each participant will receive a personalized certificate and a small prize, and will be entered into a drawing for the chance to visit the Nation's Capital with a chaperone.

For libraries looking to promote the Second Lady's Reading Challenge or incorporate it into an existing summer reading or back-to-school event, [campaign resources are available here](#).

NJSL Presents Events

Our NJSL Presents Webinars are free and open to anyone interested in attending. Registration is required in advance and [all webinars are recorded and posted to our YouTube page](#) afterward. You can also [check out event recaps on our blog](#)! Here's what we have coming up in August, feel free to share within your communities.

- [Getting Fiscally Fit](#) - August 11th @ noon
 - [A Pinelands Road Trip](#) - August 19th @ noon
 - [Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia](#) - August 20th @ noon
-

Professional Development Opportunities

Visit the State Library's [CE Training webpage](#) for a variety of Continuing Education training opportunities for New Jersey librarians, library support staff, and trustees.

[On-Demand Training Portal](#) in the LibraryLinkNJ LearningSpace and [a list of training programs](#) currently being offered.

[Professional Development Links](#) and [Webinars and Other Training Events](#) from the NJLA Professional Development Committee.

Check out the upcoming LYRASIS CE opportunities on their [calendar here](#).

[Click here for a monthly national list](#) of CE and Professional Development opportunities.

Library Marketing Resources

If your library is looking for marketing tips, best practices and inspiration, [check out our Marketing Blog](#) updated monthly. Here's our most recent blog posts:

- [Spotify Playlists for Library Programs](#)
- [Learn More About the New Instagram Edits App](#)
- [Grab Patrons' Attention With These Videos](#)
- [Understanding the Algorithm](#)
- [Have Hashtags Gone Out of Style?](#)

Download sharable social media graphics and videos from the [Statewide Digital Marketing Campaign](#).

Also, you can [download marketing resources from State Library Vendors & Partners](#).

Connecting people with information through libraries.

New Jersey State Library | [Website](#)

