

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

January 5, 2026

State Library Updates

January 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 January, feel free to share within your communities.

- [“Know Your Rights” Part 1 – Disability and Employment](#) - January 7th @ noon
- [Crime of the Century: The Lindbergh Baby Kidnapping, The Trial, and The Price of Fame](#) - January 9th @ noon
- [Culinary Herbs](#) - January 13th @ noon
- [Gentle Yoga to Lift the Mood](#) - January 29th @ noon

NJ250 Digital Exhibit Launching in 2026

In partnership with the NJ State Archives, the NJ State Library will soon launch a new digital exhibit: “NJ250: Living Documents, Evolving Rights 1776-2026”. As the nation marks 250 years since the Revolution, our exhibition will explore how New Jersey helped shape and was shaped by the fight for liberty. Through the evolution of its constitutions, discover how the state balanced local needs with national ideals and how the meaning of democracy continues to define both New Jersey and you. As a special sneak peek, in honor of Patriots Week, check out New Jersey as it appeared in 1777, through a map originally published in the *Universal Magazine of Knowledge and Pleasure*. Waterways, early roads, and familiar towns reveal a state on the brink of transformation, just a year after the 1776 Constitution. Stay tuned for the full digital exhibit, but for now, [here's a teaser!](#)

Uncovering Individual Education Plans with Artificial Intelligence

You are cordially invited to join an information session on a free, open-source Artificial Intelligence tool called AIEP, developed by the AI for Impact program at the Burnes Center for Social Change.

Created by and with families of children with special needs, AIEP uses artificial intelligence to help families translate, summarize, and understand their child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) in plain language. IEPs are complex documents, often more than 25- 30 pages long and containing educational and medical jargon that is difficult for anyone, especially those who are low literacy and non-native speakers, to decipher.

Developers of AIEP will be joined by New Jersey's Chief AI Strategist for a demonstration of the tool and discussion of the role libraries might play in supporting K-12 special education students and their families.

The session will be held on **Tuesday, January 13 from 2 – 3 p.m.** Registration is not required; [join by clicking here](#). Please contact [Jen Nelson](#) with any questions about the session.

Start Planning your Financial Literacy Programs for Financial Literacy Month!

As part of [NJSL's Money Smart for Life initiative](#), all NJ public libraries are encouraged to host a financial literacy event during Financial Literacy Month in April 2026.

Share your Money Smart for Life events! [The interest form](#) for Money Smart for Life is now live on the New Jersey State Library website. Share your upcoming events and programs for NJSL to promote through a shared calendar and on social media. You can also provide speaker and website details if you want to recommend financial literacy resources for other libraries.

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).

Our recent blog post introduces Money Smart for Life, exploring why financial literacy matters, how libraries can play a key role in closing knowledge gaps, and what resources and support will be available through this new initiative. [Click to read](#).

A Guide to YouTube Shorts for Libraries

Our latest marketing blog explores YouTube Shorts, how they differ from Instagram Reels and TikTok, and practical ways libraries can use them for event

News From Around the State

NJ STEM Month - Mini Grants Deadline Jan 9th

[NJ STEM Month](#) is a celebration co-hosted by the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (NJSPN) and Research & Development Council of New Jersey that highlights NJ's incredible accomplishments in science, technology, engineering, math, and innovation. All organizations in the state are called to showcase and celebrate excellent work in STEM for NJ STEM Month by hosting/attending events and engaging on social media. If your library is considering hosting an NJ STEM Month event, [please fill out the interest form](#).

2026 NJ STEM Month mini-grants are available in amounts of up to \$500 for event/program enhancements. Event/program enhancements can include hosting costs such as snacks, meals, transportation, materials, etc. The deadline to submit is **January 9, 2026**. [Apply for a mini-grant here](#).

Learn more at: www.njstempathways.org/njstemmonth.

LibraryLinkNJ New Categories Added to LearningSpace

Explore professional learning at your own pace on LibraryLinkNJ's LearningSpace, now with two new categories designed to support you both professionally and personally. Check out resources and learning opportunities on the following new topics:

- [Cybersecurity](#)
 - [Everyday Well-Being](#)
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Statewide EDI Resource Solicitation Form for NJ Libraries

As part of the larger [Strategic Roadmap](#) project, led by NJSL, NJLA, and LLNJ, we are conducting an audit of the equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) resources currently being used across New Jersey libraries.

If you or your organization have participated in an EDI training, workshop, or program—or if you've come across a resource you believe is valuable and worth reviewing—we invite you to share it with us through this [EDI Resource Solicitation Form](#). Your input will directly inform this audit and help strengthen collective EDI efforts statewide.

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:

- [Five Free Library Content Ideas You Can Post This Week](#)
- [The Secret to Social Media Hooks](#)
- [Refresh Your Library's Approach to Email Marketing](#)
- [How to Create Better Hyperlinks for Accessibility](#)
- [Spotify Playlists for Library Programs](#)

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.





Try email marketing for free today!