

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

September 21, 2026

State Library Updates

New Jersey State Library Awarded National Leadership Grant to Expand Civic AI Learning through Libraries

The New Jersey State Library (NJSL), an affiliate of Thomas Edison State University, has been awarded a \$299,250 National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for Engaging Communities with Artificial Intelligence (AI). NJSL will lead a three-year, multistate initiative called CivicAI, designed to help members of the public understand, use, and engage with AI. Partners include the Hawai'i State Public Library System, the Montana State Library, and [InnovateUS](#), a project of [The Governance Lab \(The GovLab\)](#).

[Click here to read the full press release.](#)

Get Money Smart-er with Webinars from the NJ State Library!

For a second year, the New Jersey State Library invites libraries to take part in Money Smart for Life. This program helps libraries bring financial literacy opportunities to patrons of all ages and backgrounds—from children and teens to adults and seniors during Financial Literacy Month in April 2027.

Library staff are invited to webinars this October to spark ideas for their own programs and learn about resources available for NJ seniors.



Money Smart for Life
NJ STATE LIBRARY

Money Smart for Life: Thinking outside the Financial Literacy Box

Tuesday, October 20th, 1:00-2:00pm

Learn about strategies for working with partners to make financial literacy interesting and meaningful.

NJSave and GetSetUp: Resources for Older New Jerseyans

Wednesday, October 21st, 10:00-11:00am

Explore statewide services that save seniors money.

Money Smart for Life: Playing with Your Money

Wednesday, October 28th, 1:00-2:00pm

This panel will share their fun and educational programs for children and youth.

More information and registration links are on the Money Smart for Life webpage (<https://www.njstatelib.org/moneysmart>), and watch for additional updates soon. Join us and help your community build their money skills and confidence! Questions? Contact Sharon Rawlins (srawlins@njstatelib.org) and Andrea Levandowski (alevandowski@njstatelib.org).

Catch the last NJ250 Exhibit Tour for September

In our in-person exhibit, each of the three display cases represents a state Constitutional era and follows a different theme. Learn more about the documents on display [here](#).

The exhibit is currently on display on the State Library's 4th floor, and guided tours are offered twice monthly. The next tour will be offered on **Sept. 30th, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.**

[Learn more here.](#)



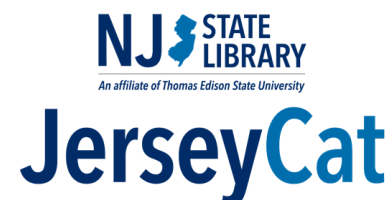
Call for Reviewers – JerseyCat Procurement Committee

The New Jersey State Library currently seeks volunteers to serve on a JerseyCat Procurement Committee in 2026 and 2027.

JerseyCat, the free statewide interlibrary loan program comprised of services provided by Auto-Graphics, Inc., will be supported by New Jersey Library Network Funding and IMLS funding through June 2027. The JerseyCat Procurement committee will support the selection process for a statewide interlibrary loan vendor. This committee will operate from September 2026 through June 2027. Attendance at up to two virtual meetings per month will be expected.

Responsibilities of Committee Members will include:

- Appointment through June 2027



- Attendance at scheduled meetings
- Analysis of survey data collected in 2026
- Assistance with solicitation and evaluation of responses to the Request for Quotations
- Dissemination of information on Interlibrary Loan

If you are interested in studying, evaluating and shaping the future of resource sharing in New Jersey, please [fill out the survey linked here](#) by **September 25, 2026** to express your interest in an appointment to the JerseyCat Procurement Committee.

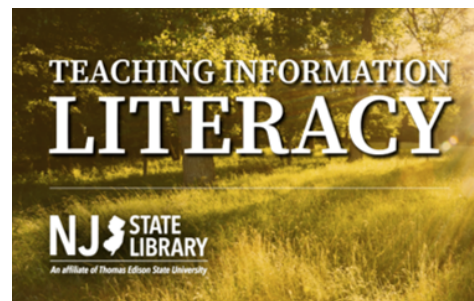
LEAP iPad Classes - Fall 2026 Schedule

TBBC is taking registrations for the Fall 2026 round of iPad classes being offered as part of the Library Equal Access Program (LEAP). LEAP is a series of classes sponsored by the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI). These free classes teach individuals aged 55 and older who have a loss of vision how to use accessibility features on iPads, such as Siri and Voiceover. Classes are starting in September at several libraries throughout the state. iPads are available for participants to use in class, so owning one is not required to register. For more information or to register, please contact Stephen Felle at (800) 792-8322 ext. 812 or sfelle@njstatelib.org. Class details can be found [here](#), and you can view the full schedule [here](#).



Teaching Information Literacy Community of Practice (CoP)

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. You will have the opportunity to engage with colleagues by sharing information and gaining knowledge of information literacy that you can use with youth in your libraries. The CoP meetups will be held on the second Tuesday of each month, with alternating meeting times of noon – 1 pm one month, and 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm the next month. The meetings will be held on Microsoft Teams. The next meeting is **October 13, 2026, 4 pm – 5 pm**, where Lisa Manganello, South Brunswick High School Media Specialist, will be the guest speaker. Visit the [website to register](#) for these meetups. Contact Sharon Rawlins, srawlins@njstatelib.org, with any questions.



Registration Now Open for LibraryLinkNJ's Virtual Collections Conference

Registration is now open for LibraryLinkNJ's 6th annual one-day virtual conference! Join them on Thursday, October 22nd for The Collections Conference, a free, full day opportunity to learn from colleagues and focus your energy on a core aspect of libraries everywhere!

[Visit the event webpage](#) to see the conference schedule and register!



Partner with The New Jersey Council for the Humanities for Prime Time Family Reading program

The New Jersey Council for the Humanities is looking to partner with several new public libraries for its [Prime Time Family Reading program](#) in 2027.



Library host sites receive training on this award-winning national program as well as funding from NJCH. Applications are open now for all 2027 programs. A second application round will open in February for fall 2027 programs only.

[Register for a virtual information session](#) on **September 22nd** to learn more about the program and application process. **Application deadline: October 29.**

National Opportunities

Upcoming Digital Shelf Webinars

The Digital Shelf is an ongoing collaboration between [Lyrasis](#), [Readers First](#), and [COSLA](#). Below is the lineup of sessions for the rest of 2026 in the Digital Shelf Series. All webinars are free, open to all in the library community, offer continuing education credit to participating librarians, and feature AI-generated captions (ASL interpretation available via es@lyrasis.org). Click on each webinar title to learn more about the topic and register.

- [Accessibility on the Library Shelf](#) - Tuesday, September 29th, 1:00 - 2:00 PM - *Of special interest to those in the NLS network*

- [What Are "Reasonable" Library Costs?](#) - Tuesday, October 13th, 1:00 - 2:00 PM
- [AI Toolkit Showcase](#) - Tuesday, November 10th, 1:00 - 2:00 PM
- [Unlocking the Digital Shelf: State Laws Reshaping Library Ebook Access](#) - Tuesday, December 8th, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Sign Up to Host the Holocaust Memorial Museum's Traveling Exhibit

The American Library Association (ALA), in collaboration with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, announced the continuation of its traveling exhibition [Americans and the Holocaust](#), an exploration of the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war, and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. Following a highly successful tour to [100 libraries](#) from 2021 to 2026, the exhibition will travel to 50 additional public and academic (i.e., college and university)

libraries across the United States. Interested libraries are encouraged to [sign up](#) to learn more about the exhibition and receive email updates about the tour and application deadlines. Applications for the 2028 to 2030 tour will open in spring 2027. Check out a short trailer [video](#) for the exhibit.



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 September, feel free to share within your communities.



- [Identity Theft](#) - September 24th @ noon ***just added**
- [Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention](#) - September 29th @ noon
- [Library and NJ250 Exhibit Talk](#) - September 30th @ 1:30 p.m.

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:

- [Intro to Social Calendar Planning for Libraries](#)
- [How New Jersey Libraries Can Turn Archives Into Engaging Posts](#)
- [Early Marketing: How to Build Excitement for Your Library's Work](#)
- [Community Influencers: The New Word-of-Mouth](#)
- [How to Use Canva Templates for Library Social Posts](#)

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](#)



NJ250: Living Documents, Evolving Rights - New Jersey Through Three Constitutions
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