

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

July 20, 2026

State Library Updates

NJ250 Digital Exhibit - New July Content

Check out the new exhibits we've shared for July. Stay tuned, as we continue to debut content monthly!

Revolutionary Era (1776 – 1844)

[A Family Affair: The Founding Fathers from New Jersey](#)

The founding fathers of our state were tied together by more than their signatures on the Declaration of Independence! If you dig deeper into the genealogy of the signers, you'll find many of them are cousins and in-laws.

Reform Era (1844 – 1947)

[Even Gangsters are Entitled to Constitutional Protection](#)

Long before Tony Soprano, there was Ignatius Andrew Lanzetta. Lanzetta was not a fictional TV character, but part of the very real Lanzetta Brothers crime family from South Philly. While vacationing down the shore with some of his "co-workers" in July of 1936, NJ State Police cut the beach trip short.



TBBC Summer Reading Program

TBBC is excited to announce the return of its Summer Reading Program, now redesigned to offer fun and engaging activities for participants of all ages. Open exclusively to registered TBBC patrons, the program features activities in both English and Spanish. Participants can register online or by calling TBBC at (800) 792-8322 ext. 0. The program is made



possible through the generous support of the Friends of the Library. For more information and to access the registration form, [click here](#).

Public Library Building Construction Needs Survey Results

In April and May 2026, the New Jersey State Library conducted a Public Library Building Construction Needs Survey. The survey responses reflect the needs of 218 of the state's 440 public libraries. We are grateful for the high rate of participation, which helps paint a clear picture of need. You can view the survey questions and the report on our [new Library Construction webpage](#). Please reach out with any questions – jnelson@njstatelib.org.

NJ AI Library Learning Network

The State Library and LibraryLinkNJ have partnered with the NJ AI Hub to launch the NJ AI Library Learning Network, a new initiative that will help libraries bring practical AI learning and workforce skills to communities across the state. Library staff from five public libraries will receive advanced AI literacy training and, in turn, will offer free community workshops focused on the practical, ethical, and accessible use of AI. [Learn more here](#).



News From Around The State

DEP Launches Outreach Campaign to Reduce Single-Use Utensils, Condiments, and Plastic Straws

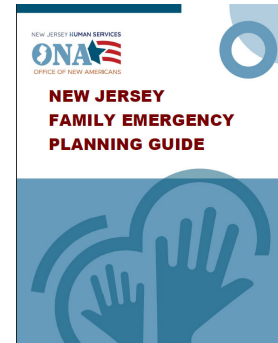
The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announces the launch of its Cut the Cutlery outreach campaign to reduce single-use utensils, condiment packets, and plastic straws. [The Cut the Cutlery campaign](#) is part of the DEP's Get Past Plastic initiative, which aims to reduce plastic consumption and waste throughout the state.



[Click here for the outreach toolkit](#) to help promote this new initiative and further raise awareness of the importance of reducing single-use foodservice items. If you have any questions about this campaign or New Jersey's single-use plastic laws, please contact singleuseplastics@dep.nj.gov.

The Office of New Americans New Resource: New Jersey Family Emergency Planning Guide

The Office of New Americans (ONA) is introducing the New Jersey Family Emergency Planning Guide, a comprehensive resource designed to help families prepare for emergencies. It includes tools and guidance to help families collect important documents, develop care plans, take legal action, and prepare for the possibility of sudden detention. [Click here to download and print The New Jersey Family Emergency Planning Guide](#) in multiple languages to share with the families you serve.



National Opportunities

U.S. Government Publishing Office Launches Public Access to Newly Available Records

The U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) has launched public access to more than 1.2 million newly available records of historic U.S. Government publications, making it easier than ever to find documents published between 1895 and 1976. The records are now live in the [Catalog of U.S. Government Publications \(CGP\)](#) and are available to the public at no cost. This launch improves search and discovery and opens the door to decades of Government publications that were previously difficult to locate online. [Click here to learn more in the news release.](#)

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 July, feel free to share within your communities.

- [Medicare 101](#) - July 21st @ noon
- [Gentle Yoga](#) - July 23rd @ 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:

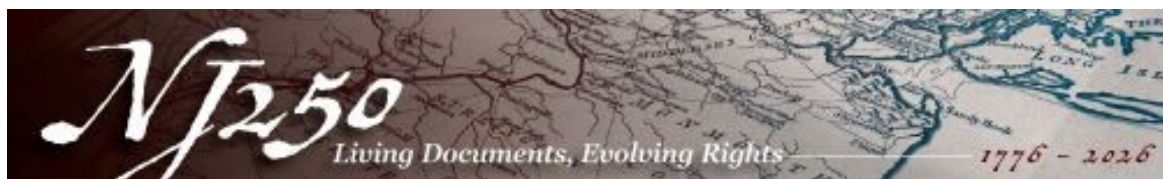
- [Early Marketing: How to Build Excitement for Your Library's Work](#)
- [Community Influencers: The New Word-of-Mouth](#)
- [How to Use Canva Templates for Library Social Posts](#)
- [How to Turn One Library Program into Multiple Marketing Opportunities](#)
- [Library Content Brainstorm for 2026](#)

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

New Jersey State Library | 185 West State Street P.O. Box 520 | Trenton, NJ 08625-0520 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!