



An affiliate of Thomas Edison State University

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries
March 24, 2025

State Library Updates

A Message from NJ State Librarian, Jen Nelson

On Friday March 14, 2025, an Executive Order was issued that severely reduces the functioning of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The full implications of the order on the New Jersey State Library (NJSL) are unclear. NJSL annually receives approximately \$4.5 million from IMLS. Those funds are primarily used to fund the NJ Talking Book and Braille Center, JerseyConnect (which provides core technology services to 300+ libraries), and JerseyClicks (a suite of 24 online databases), as well as several other smaller scale initiatives. NJSL is awaiting additional information from IMLS related to our federal fiscal year 2025 allocation through the recently passed Continuing Resolution.

Any changes to service levels that would be caused by a reduction or elimination of federal funding to NJSL depends first on the outcome of the Continuing Resolution. We expect to know the outcome by mid-April. Second, changes are subject to federal decisions related to the statutory nature of the Grants to States program, which is the source of our annual allotment. We hope to have this information in the next 7-10 days.

In the meantime, NJSL is reviewing our various funding sources and priorities, and engaging in scenario planning to determine the full impact of any reduction or elimination of federal funding. We will not be speculating about what the impact could be and will provide additional factual information as it becomes available.

If you would like to discuss the situation, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I am also happy to attend meetings to address staff, trustees or other interested parties. I can be reached at jnelson@njstatelib.org or [609-278-2640](tel:609-278-2640) x101.

Updated Research Guides

We're happy to announce updates we've made to two of our Research Guides. An [Archived Federal Websites and Data](#) section has been added to the U.S. Government research guide. This is to help users navigate changes made to federal government websites and data portals since the 2025 presidential transition. Included are archived data and website sources that can be used to find information removed from or made unavailable on federal government websites due to the administrative transition or compliance with presidential executive orders.

Additionally, an Immigration tab has been added to our [Get Help: New Jersey Social Services](#) research guide to include links to federal, state, and local resources on immigration, including legal services and information. The new Immigration tab can be located in the left column navigation. The Get Help guide is designed to help users locate and access community or state resources and assistance in New Jersey.

Join Digital Equity Working Groups

The Office of Broadband Connectivity together with the New Jersey State Library will re-convene two working groups to provide input, guidance, and feedback on updating the Digital Equity Plan.

The Digital Equity Working Group and the Digital Equity Workforce Development Working Group will meet twice a month during hour-long virtual sessions through December 2025. [Click here](#) to learn more about each group's objective and fill out the interest form by **March 31, 2025**.

News from Around the State

RevolutionNJ Spotlight: History Pinned 2025 Call for Artists

[RevolutionNJ](#), New Jersey's official initiative to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, is seeking up to 5 designs for its History Pinned project. History Pinned is an annual button-collection program featuring five history sites from around New Jersey. Participants can collect a unique button from each site. Those who visit all five sites will receive a prize. Submitted designs must either highlight an object or depict a story from one of the History Pinned 2025 featured sites. New Jersey artists of all ages are welcome to submit designs for one site or multiple locations. **Deadline: Monday, April 7, 2025.** [Click to learn more.](#)

NJ High School Voter Registration Week

Save the dates for NJ High School Voter Registration Week! This year the program will kick off with a week of action from **April 6-12th** and run through **May 20th**, the voter registration deadline for the Primary Election.

Please participate in this important non-partisan effort to register eligible 17 and 18 year old high school students. Consider organizing a voter registration activity focused on your young adult patrons during the program time period.

[Click here to fill out a form of participation.](#) For any questions about NJ High School Voter Registration Week contact Eric Kipnis, Manager of Constituent Relations at NJDOS@sos.nj.gov.

"Prime Time Family Reading" Grant Opportunity from New Jersey Council for Humanities

This year, New Jersey Council for Humanities (NJCH) will become an affiliate of Prime Time Family Reading, a national program serving 6- to 10-year-old children and their families. During the six-week program, families share a meal before reading and discussing a children's book. Each program has a theme and the books and discussion allow families to delve deeply into the theme.

NJCH is looking for two public libraries in different parts of the state to serve as host sites to pilot this program in the coming year. Host sites help to recruit families, arrange for logistics, and host the programs, all with funding from NJCH.

[Click here to learn more and apply](#). The application deadline is **May 7, 2025** and NJCH will have a virtual information session about the program on **March 27, 2025 at 12:30 pm**. Questions? Contact gnaglak@njhumanities.org.

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, feel free to share within your communities.

- [VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALK – New Jersey Women During World War II](#) - March 25th @ noon
 - [Legal Research Databases at the NJ State Library](#) - April 2nd @ noon
 - [The Mysteries of the 1777 Battle of Navesink](#) - April 9th @ noon
 - [Listen More, Talk Less: A Key to Career Success](#) - April 16th @ noon
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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 [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:

- [Understanding the Algorithm](#)
- [Have Hashtags Gone Out of Style?](#)
- [Look Out for These Social Media Trends in 2025](#)
- [Inclusive Marketing for Libraries](#)
- [How to Fix a Creative Block in Marketing](#)

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

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

Connecting people with information through libraries.

New Jersey State Library | [Website](#)

