

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

February 2, 2026

State Library Updates

February 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 February, feel free to share within your communities.

- [Simple Steps to Successful Networking Opportunities](#) - February 4th @ noon
- [Know Your Rights Part 2 - Housing](#) - February 10th @ noon
- [The 1759 Vought House: A Loyalist Homestead in Revolutionary Hunterdon County](#) - February 19th @ noon
- ["The Price of Silence" – The Forgotten Story of New Jersey's Enslaved People](#) - February 21st, This in-person event will be held at the NJ State Museum Auditorium @ noon
- [Slavery and Emancipation Laws in 19th Century New Jersey](#) - February 24th @ noon
- [Introduction to Finding Grants](#) - February 26th @ noon

Money Smart For Life - Video and Upcoming Webinars

[Check out this 10-minute video](#) to hear from your NJSL colleagues, Sharon Rawlins and Andrea Levandowski, as they discuss NJSL's [Money Smart for Life](#) initiative, and some of the reasons why financial literacy is an important topic for all ages.

Upcoming Webinars

Sign up now for Money Smart for Life webinars for library staff. Learn about money skills, resources, and ideas for your library's financial literacy programming.

- [Public Benefits for Older Adults and Understanding Social Security](#) - Feb. 3, 10 am
- [Understanding Types of Investments](#) - Feb. 4, 10 am
- [The Power of Investing Over Time](#) - Feb. 5, 10 am

Tell us about your financial literacy events!

During Financial Literacy Month in April 2026, all New Jersey public libraries are encouraged to showcase their financial education programs, events, and collections. An [interest form](#) is available for you to 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.

If you have questions, contact Andrea Levandowski (alevandowski@njstatelib.org) or Sharon Rawlins (srawlins@njstatelib.org).

NJSL Presents: A Black History Month Special Event

In celebration of Black History Month, please join the New Jersey State Library on **Saturday, February 21st**, for an in-person screening of the 3-part, New York Emmy Award-nominated PBS documentary, "The Price of Silence." Join us at the New Jersey State Museum Auditorium in Trenton, NJ, from 12:00 - 2:00 pm. The event is free and registration is encouraged as space is limited. Upon conclusion of the documentary screening, we will hold a panel discussion with producer Ridgeley Hutchinson and documentary contributors Dr. Linda J. Caldwell Epps, Beverly Mills, Toni Hendrix, Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter, and Dr. Damali Campbell-Oparaji. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

Please help us spread the word about this special event by sharing this flyer ([PDF](#) or [JPG](#)) within your communities!

Information Literacy Updates - New Training Module and Upcoming Professional Development Sessions

New Learning Module Available

LibraryLinkNJ, in partnership with the New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Department of Education, has released the final module of the five-part learning series, *Information Literacy: A Guide for New Jersey Communities*. Module 5: ["How Do I Create and Distribute Information?"](#) Whether you are a librarian, educator, parent, or community leader, these free resources will help you communicate effectively with learners of all ages about the essential skill of information literacy. [Access all five modules and learn more here.](#)

Upcoming Training Opportunities

There are two upcoming training opportunities on Information Literacy and registration is open to all!

Join Linda Braun and Ang Coxen at the NJLA/NJASL Conference for a special two hour Information Literacy session on **Wed., Feb. 18th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**. This session offers two professional development hours; [conference registration](#) is required.

If you're interested in helping colleagues better understand information literacy, please join Linda Braun and Ang Coxen for an all-day information literacy Train the Trainer session on **Sat., March 7th** at the Monroe Township Library, from **9:30 am to 4 pm**. The session is offered free of charge and lunch will be provided. [Registration is limited](#) and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. **The deadline for registration is February 26**. You will be notified and placed on a waiting list if registration exceeds capacity. This session offers six professional development hours.

Also, stay tuned for additional information literacy training opportunities that are upcoming in April 2026. Details will be announced soon!

Marketing Trends for 2026

New year, new strategy! Planning your library's marketing for 2026? Our latest blog highlights five marketing trends predicted to shape the year, without the AI buzzwords. [Read the full blog](#).

News From Around the State

Secure Your Spot at LibraryLinkNJ's Virtual Winter Meeting

The LibraryLinkNJ team has extended the participation deadline for their annual Winter Meeting on **February 10th**! This virtual event will bring library staff from across the state together to highlight the amazing work happening in New Jersey's libraries.

They're looking for volunteers to spend a minute or two sharing their library's success stories with the NJ library community during the meeting! Shout out your incredible colleagues, talk about an amazing program, or share details on your favorite library initiative from 2025. [Learn more and sign up](#).

Share NJ TRANSIT's Language Survey with Patrons

NJ TRANSIT is conducting a Language Survey to better understand the needs of its customers who may not speak and/or read English well. The survey is available online **until February 13th**, in multiple languages, and phone

assistance with an interpreter is also available for languages not listed. Please call 973-491-8031, leave a message, and someone on the team will follow up to complete the survey with an interpreter. Below are ways you can share the survey opportunity with your patrons:

- Sending them directly to the NJ Transit website: <https://www.njtransit.com/language>.
- Printing and posting [this flyer](#) at your library
- Navigating clients to NJ TRANSIT's official [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) sites and sharing the NJ TRANSIT Language Survey post.
- Post on your own socials with this ['Language Survey – Social' graphic](#).

Please forward any questions regarding the survey to Juliet Herndon, Director, Title VI & Language Access, NJ TRANSIT at language@njtransit.com.

Counting on School Librarians

Getting an accurate picture of school librarian staffing across New Jersey has been a longstanding challenge, making it difficult to identify communities that need additional library support. LibraryLinkNJ is crowdsourcing this information to help fill in the gaps. If you have knowledge about K-12 school library staffing in New Jersey, please share it anonymously through their survey. The form closes on **February 28**. [Use this link](#) for more information and to submit what you know.

Participate in NJ Makers Day this March!

The 12th Annual [New Jersey Makers Day](#) will be **March 20-22, 2026**. If your library would like to participate, [fill out the form](#) to register.

National Opportunities

IMLS FY26 Funding Opportunities

[IMLS's Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) is live for the following library grant programs:

- [National Leadership Grants for Libraries \(NLG-L\)](#)
- [Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program \(LB21\)](#)
- [Native American Library Services: Basic Grants \(NAB\)](#)

The application deadline for all three programs is **March 13**.

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:

- [A Guide to YouTube Shorts for Libraries](#)
- [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](#)

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.

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Try email marketing for free today!