

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

September 29, 2025

State Library Updates

Upcoming Training Webinars for JerseyClicks Resources

We are happy to announce the following training webinars for JerseyClicks resources. Learn more and register for the webinars below.

Gale In 15: SAT & ACT Prep with Gale Presents: Peterson's Test and Career Prep

Wednesday, October 22 at 2:00 PM

SAT and ACT exams are right around the corner and your JerseyClicks resource, Gale Presents: Peterson's Test and Career Prep can help. Join this short, virtual training session to learn more about these resources and discover exam prep courses, practice exams, and more. [Register to attend live or to receive a link to the recording.](#)

Let's Explore EBSCO's New Reference Center Interfaces

Tuesday, October 28 at 2:00 PM

EBSCO's Reference Centers have a new home – Explora! Explora's engaging and accessible interface is designed to support research with rich, reliable content and easy-to-use functionality. EBSCO will demonstrate the enhanced user experience for the following full-text databases: Points of View Reference Source, Literary Reference Source, and Small Business Source. [Register for EBSCO's Explora Training here.](#)

LCBA Feature: Monmouth County Library

The latest New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act spotlight features the grand reopening of the Monmouth County Library headquarters in Manalapan. [Read about their major interior renovation project](#), reinforcing the Library's commitment to serving as a modern, inclusive, and welcoming space for all. This project was supported in part by funds from the New Jersey Library Construction

Information Literacy Training Modules

LibraryLinkNJ, in partnership with the New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Department of Education, has released the first two modules of a new five-part learning series, *Information Literacy: A Guide for New Jersey Communities*. These on-demand learning modules are part of the IMLS-funded [Teaching Information Literacy initiative](#) spearheaded by the New Jersey State Library. Whether you are a librarian, educator, parent, or community leader, these free resources will help you communicate effectively with learners of all ages about this essential skill. The courses are free to access and do not require a login.

[Learn more about this initiative.](#)

[Get started with the modules.](#)

Research Ready: Resources for Supporting Teens

The NJ State Library is sponsoring a five-part series of one-hour virtual sessions to equip librarians with the essential tools and strategies to support teens' skills in conducting academic research. The series will be facilitated by Christine Jansen, Research and Instruction Librarian at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and moderated by Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, NJ State Library. Sessions will take place October through December.

[Learn more about the sessions and register for each one.](#)

Updates for the Freedom to Read Act

The model policies and forms, plus a compliance document, for the Freedom to Read Act are now posted on the [NJSL website](#). Information sessions on implementing the model policies will be held in October 2025; registration is not required. [Find the session dates on the website](#). Please contact Jen Nelson (jnelson@njstatelib.org) with any questions.

Refresh Your Library's Approach to Email Marketing

Has your library's email marketing started to feel a little... stale? Email is still one of the most effective ways to reach your patrons, but even the best strategies need a refresh now and then. Our latest marketing blog, ["Refresh Your Library's Approach to Email Marketing,"](#) is packed with new ideas and tips to help your newsletters stand out in a crowded inbox.

New Student Resources for America's Founding Story

PBS LearningMedia, NJ PBS, NJ Department of Education, along with RevolutionNJ, have announced a collection of resources for students in grades 3 through 12 that highlight the American Revolution, and in particular, New Jersey's role in the larger story of America's founding. [The initiative was recently announced on Constitution Day](#), with a preview release of four student resources, and will eventually include more than 35 resources. The collection will include student-facing interactives that use personal narratives from young people of the time to connect students with different wartime experiences, and an interactive map that will allow students to explore major battles, including two in New Jersey, the Battle of Trenton and the Battle of Monmouth.

To further engage students in the Revolutionary era, PBS LearningMedia is hosting a national [Youth Media Challenge](#), which encourages students to submit audio, video, or graphics projects to share their knowledge, ideas, and understanding of important revolutionary ideals and historic events. Learning opportunities and information about all educational activities can be found at pbslearningmedia.org/pbsteach250.

Revolutionary Lives Traveling Exhibit Now Available

Communities and organizations can register to host a traveling exhibit about the American Revolution in New Jersey. [RevolutionNJ](#), New Jersey's official 250th commemoration initiative, is proud to announce the launch of [Revolutionary Lives: Living the American Experiment Then and Now](#), a traveling exhibition designed for communities statewide. Available free of charge, the exhibit highlights the often overlooked stories of everyday New Jerseyans whose lives, labor, and choices shaped the Revolutionary era and continue to inspire civic engagement today. The exhibit is available to host at libraries, historic sites, senior centers, city halls, schools, and other public spaces across New Jersey. It comes in two flexible formats: six double-sided stretch-fabric banners, ideal for open gallery-style spaces, and twelve single-sided banners, perfect for hallways or corridors. Reservations will be for a two-week loan period with the possibility of an extension based on availability. Those interested in hosting the exhibit can submit a reservation request at bit.ly/RevExhibit.

Freedom to Read: A Panel Discussion on Representation and Censorship

NJ State Librarian Jen Nelson will join representatives from Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders of New Jersey (AAPI NJ), and Garden State Equality on **October 8th** at the North Edison Temporary Branch from 7-8 p.m. The panel will lead a timely discussion on the power of diverse representation in literature, the

consequences of censorship, and the significance of the recently passed Freedom to Read Act, which upholds every reader's right to access a broad range of perspectives in libraries. [Registration for this event](#) is encouraged, but not mandatory.

NJASL Survey of School Library Media Specialists

Please share the following information widely with your school library media specialist colleagues where appropriate. NJASL is looking to use the results of this survey to help develop goals and guide the work of the organization. It is important to gather as much data as possible from certified SLMS throughout NJ. [Access the survey here](#). Any questions can be directed to Mary Moyer Stubbs, mmoyer@njasl.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 in September, feel free to share within your communities.

- [A Century of Cuban Music in New Jersey Online](#) - September 29th @ noon
 - [Genealogy at the Local Repository: Utilizing Local Libraries and Historical Societies](#) - October 7th @ noon
 - [Researching New Jersey Land Records Online](#) - October 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 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:

- [How to Create Better Hyperlinks for Accessibility](#)
- [Spotify Playlists for Library Programs](#)
- [Learn More About the New Instagram Edits App](#)
- [Grab Patrons' Attention With These Videos](#)
- [Understanding the Algorithm](#)

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

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

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