

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries
May 12, 2025

State Library Updates

NJSL Presents: Juneteenth Webinar - Abolition and the Underground Railroad in South Jersey, a Virtual Author Talk

Please join us on June 19th, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, in celebration of Juneteenth, as author Ellen D. Alford recounts compelling narratives of abolition and the Underground Railroad in South Jersey. Ellen D. Alford is a native South Jersey resident and local historian who researches and writes about the Underground Railroad, slavery, abolition, and Harriet Tubman in South Jersey. A graduate of Howard University, Allen is a former newspaper correspondent, public school educator, and a college/university administrator.

[Learn more and register.](#)

The Talking Book and Braille Center: Resources and Services for the Print Disabled

Founded in 1967, the NJ State Library's Talking Book and Braille Center provides no-cost, home-delivered services on behalf of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. In honor of Deaf-Blind Awareness Week, please join us as Liz Kelly, Adult Services Librarian, and Luisa Martucci, Hispanic Outreach

Coordinator, provide an overview of the resources and services available at no cost to qualified NJ residents.

[Learn more and register.](#)

News from Around the State

Social Security Card Information

The Social Security Administration (SSA) expects an increase in the number of people contacting or visiting their offices over the next month as people begin to apply for their Real ID and wish to [replace their Social Security Number card](#) to fulfill one of MVC's documentary requirements. By displaying the attached flyer in your library, you can help ensure that people are prepared before they contact the SSA. Want to arrange for a presentation about Social Security for your staff and patrons? Contact an SSA [Public](#) Affairs Specialist! They're also available to answer general questions about programs and benefits.

[Download the flyer here.](#)

DEP Announces Online Library to Help K-5 Educators Incorporate Climate Change Lessons and Solution-Based Concepts into All Subject Areas

The NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection has released a new online library, unveiled as part of Earth Week, that provides guidance on how to seamlessly weave climate change education into multiple school subject areas. The library of resources from the Office of Environmental Education includes curated resources from environment-focused nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and academic institutions. [Read more.](#)

Share Summer EBT Program with Patrons

The NJ Summer EBT Program provides low-income families with a one time \$120 EBT card per eligible child to help purchase groceries during the summer when kids might not have access to school meals. Please feel free to share this information within your community. Visit <https://www.nj.gov/summerebt/> for qualifications and how to apply.

NJSL Presents May 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 May, feel free to share within your communities.

- [Unforgotten Valor: How the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Supports NJ's Veterans](#) - May 13th @ noon
- [Financial Side of College Graduation](#) - May 14th @ 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 [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:

- [Grab Patrons' Attention With These Videos](#)
- [Understanding the Algorithm](#)
- [Have Hashtags Gone Out of Style?](#)
- [Look Out for These Social Media Trends in 2025](#)
- [Inclusive Marketing for Libraries](#)

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](#)

