

State Librarian's Update

May 2025

I've been working with an outstanding group of librarians this Spring on developing the required policies and forms required under the Freedom to Read Act, and thought a review and update of the work might be helpful.

Under the law, the State Librarian is required to work with the New Jersey Library Association to develop model curation (collection development) and request for reconsideration policies and a model request for reconsideration form by December 4, 2025. Our working group is just now completing a version of each for final review and acceptance.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

A Special Note from NJSL Research Library Director, Maria Baratta:

The Research Library lost an amazing friend and colleague with the death of our Associate Director, Teri Taylor, on April 14th. Teri was a consummate professional with a specialization in U.S. documents. No matter how obscure or how oddly named a federal government report or document might be, she could find it. She understood the labyrinthine classification structure that is SuDoc numbers (Superintendent of Documents). She regularly attended conferences held by the Federal Depository Library Program and Government Publications Office, sharing what she learned with others so that we all benefited from her knowledge. Here in NJ, Teri regularly attended the Documents Association of New Jersey meetings and was often asked to present on topics related to US documents at different library conferences and training programs.

Teri was a great Philadelphia sports fan and often went to Eagles or Sixers games with her family or friends. She followed lots of women's sports, especially women's basketball. She had a deep appreciation of pop culture, and it was so much fun to talk with her about the latest trending movies and TV shows.

We are all so lucky to have had the opportunity to work with Teri and to call her our friend. She will be missed very, very much. You can find a lovely tribute from her family [here](#).



Research Library Updates

As more and more libraries de-list or decommission certain US and NJ state documents, the Research Library continues to collect those that are not already in our collection. Recently, about 150 US documents pulled from the NJ Dept of Transportation collection were transferred to the State Library's holdings.

A Fun History Find from the Research Library

The State Library responds to all sorts of reference questions about historic events. Some questions may seem very timely when viewed in light of today's political climate. For example, a patron recently asked for assistance in locating satirical resolutions put before the New Jersey State Assembly on February 21, 1861, which was a day Abraham Lincoln was scheduled to come to Trenton. Four resolutions were put forward to mock him before his arrival. They read:

- Resolved, That when this Assembly shall have seen Abraham Lincoln, they will have seen a man six feet four inches in height.
- Resolved, That when this House shall have seen Abraham Lincoln, they will have seen the ugliest man in the country.
- Resolved, That we trust this Legislature may always have a democratic member that shall exceed the President-elect by two and a half inches in height.
- Resolved, That we all go for Abraham Lincoln.

Within minutes of those resolutions being entered into the record, President-Elect Abraham Lincoln spoke before the Assembly. To read the full entry of the Assembly Minutes from that day in NJ history, go to page 500 of the Minutes of the votes and proceedings of the 85th General Assembly of the State of New Jersey convened at Trenton January 8, 1861, as found in our New Jersey State Publications Digital Library. Using official government proceedings to bully a politician sounds a bit like using social media to achieve the same thing today.

TBBC Outreach Update

Staff have been out and about attending various community events to spread the word about TBBC services. In late April, TBBC outreach staff gave a presentation at the Middlesex County Office of Aging & Disabled Services and attended the Consulate of Colombia in Newark for the inauguration of a Special Needs Inclusion Initiative. This event presented an excellent opportunity to offer no-cost services to support New Jersey's Spanish-speaking population. Upcoming events for May include the Long Branch Spring into Action Resource Fair and the Bergen County All Abilities Englewood Support Group. New LEAP (Library Equal Access Program) spring sessions are underway, with new classes running through May 20th at several libraries, including TBBC.

You're Invited:

Upcoming NJSL Presents Events

The following programs are all virtual, free, and open to anyone. Pre-registration is required.

- May 6th, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, [Speaking Yiddish to Chickens: Holocaust Survivors on South Jersey Poultry Farms](#)
- May 8th, 12:30 – 1:00 pm, [The Truth About Arthritis](#)

- May 13th, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, [Unforgotten Valor: How the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Supports NJ's Veterans](#)
- May 14th, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, [Financial Side of College Graduation](#)

Get Involved:

CSLP Public Service Announcement (PSA) and Social Media Toolkit

Get ready to advertise your public library's Summer Reading Program with CSLP's Public Service Announcement (PSA) video and Social Media Toolkit! To access the PSA and Social Media Toolkit, sign in to the CSLP manual website using your access code, then check out the following:

- Video PSAs: <https://programs.csllpreads.org/videos-psas-for-2025-program/> (In English and Spanish)
- Social Media Toolkit: <https://programs.csllpreads.org/2025-social-media-toolkit/> (PNG versions of the toolkit templates in Canva)

If you didn't receive your link to access the code, let CSLP State Representative Sharon Rawlins, srawlins@njstatelib.org, know, and she will send it to you. Have fun planning your summer program!

Join the New Jersey Digital Skills Training User Group!

The Digital Skills Training User Group is a monthly gathering of library staff who teach computer classes, offer device assistance, work with Northstar Digital Literacy, or want to explore digital inclusion strategies. The group meets on the third Thursday of the month from 10:00-11:00 am to discuss work, ask questions, and learn together. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 15th at 10:00 am. Registration is available [here](#).