

## **Responses to Questions – Request for Quotations for JerseyClicks Databases – 2025-2028 Contract**

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The following questions were submitted prior to the December 13, 2024 deadline for pre-quotation questions, as outlined in the Request for Quotations for JerseyClicks Databases.

**Q1: In order to provide a thorough response, would NJSL extend the deadline on this RFP by two weeks to January 24th? In light of the complexity of the response and the number of business days that we lose for development time due to the holidays (Nov 28-29, Dec 24-Jan 2) with offices closed or staff out.**

A1: The deadline for this Request for Quotations has been extended until January 24, 2025.

**Q2: We would also kindly ask if vendor questions can be posted/distributed as soon as possible rather than waiting until December 31, 2024, as noted in the RFQ Timeline.**

A2: All questions will be answered on December 31, 2024.

**Q3: Is geo-authentication required for every product, or can each product that we are proposing authenticate differently by using existing standard protocols (OAuth, SAML, etc) as long as one of the products offers geo-authentication?**

A3: Geolocation-based authentication is required for every product to be considered in this Request for Quotations.

**Q4: The RFP reads: “The New Jersey State Library will consider resources with specific intended audiences, such as primary or secondary school students, but products must still be accessible to all New Jersey residents.” Question: Can we have resources within a K-12 specific platform that is available only to school populations, or does every proposed platform need to be available to all audiences?**

A4: Platforms must be accessible to all New Jersey residents to be considered in this Request for Quotations.



**Q5: Does all content that we propose need to be available to every New Jersey resident, or can we have some content that is only available to school populations and other content only available to public library populations?**

A5: All content must be accessible to all New Jersey residents to be considered in this Request for Quotations.

**Q6: Regarding the Accessibility Statement on pg. 3, can you please confirm this requirement can be removed or modified to be more lenient when proposing a third-party managed product (i.e., as a reseller)? We can work with our business partners to remediate any issues to the best of our ability but cannot commit to full responsibility in this regard.**

A6: The New Jersey State Library is required by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights to maintain a high standard of accessibility for products made available through its website. If a product cannot be made accessible under the WCAG 2.1 Level AA accessibility standard, the vendor must propose alternate measures that, at a minimum, afford a person with a disability the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services, programs, and activities as a person without a disability in an equally effective and equally integrated manner, with substantially equivalent ease of use.

**Q7: Regarding the Career and Vocational Services description in Section 4.5 on pg. 9, can you please give more context on how you'd like to customize proposed resources for New Jersey?**

A7: Content must be made available to all New Jersey residents, and must allow users to access information relating to New-Jersey based jobs, education, training, and industries.

**Q8: Can you please confirm whether in-line narrative responses should be provided for Sections 2, 3, 4?**

A8: In-line narrative responses are not required for sections 2, 3, and 4.

**Q9: Regarding section 5.6, which requests a certified audited financial statement—as a private, family-owned company, we do not provide audited financial statements without execution of a NDA. We prefer to coordinate this outside the RFP process. In lieu of audited financial statements, would you accept letters from independent auditors attesting to our financial stability for the past several years?**



A9: Yes, we will accept a letter from an independent auditor attesting to the company's financial stability as part of the proposal response.

**Q10: Regarding the New Jersey State Library Standard Terms and Conditions, can you please confirm whether we should submit requested exceptions/modifications as part of the proposal? Should these be included in the Cover Letter?**

A10: Yes, please submit requested exceptions/modifications as part of the proposal. Such requests may either be included in the cover letter or within the body of the proposal.

**Q11: Is Section 2.1.4 (in the vicinity of pg. 7) intentionally omitted, or is there a clause missing? It looks like the numbering skips from 2.1.3 to 2.1.5.**

A11: Section 2.1.4 was intentionally omitted from the RFQ during the editing process.

**Q12: "A complete disclosure of any prior or pending contract terminations involving the bidder's e-resource or software services"? Can you please clarify if this is asking about termination for breach of contract or something else?**

A12: Yes, this clause is asking about termination for cause, not normal non-renewals of products or services.

**Q13: What do you mean by 'embargoed material'? 1.2.2.1.4 Timeliness of content and a delineation of the extent to which embargoed material contained in each database**

A13: "Embargoed material" is database content for which access (or full-text access) is restricted for a set period of time. For example, if full-text access to the latest issue of a journal is only made available after a month has passed since the publication date, this would constitute embargoed material.

**Q14: Could we use the existing Master Product Suite Agreement (MPSA) to govern the new project if we are awarded it, as it would streamline the contracting process?**

A14: No, the State Library will need to enter into a new agreement for the new period of performance.

**Q15: Will you provide more information about the rubric the Procurement Committee will use to evaluate and score the proposals, such as the scoring weights for specific sections?**



A15: Applications will be evaluated by the New Jersey State Library as well as an external procurement committee, using a weighted rubric. Scoring weights will be distributed as follows:

40% - Required Criteria - Based on responses to RFQ Section 1

25% - Access to Specified Content - Based on responses to RFQ Appendix A/product similarity to descriptions in RFQ Section 4

15% - Cost - Based on RFQ Appendix B

10% - Commitment to Meet All Contract Specifications

5% - References

5% - Past Vendor Performance

**Q16: Will you clarify if the State Library plans to select databases based on the same available annual JerseyClicks budget in place now? We realize it's subject to annual appropriations from the State and Federal government to the State Library.**

A16: We have reduced the budget we are allocating towards electronic resources compared to the last 3-year cycle.

