

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries
August 18, 2025

State Library Updates

Last Chance to Volunteer - Interlibrary Loan Focus Groups

NJSL currently seeks volunteers from New Jersey libraries to participate in a series of Interlibrary Loan Focus Groups in 2025 and 2026. The purpose of the Interlibrary Loan Focus Groups is to discuss, share, and evaluate ideas related to [JerseyCat, the statewide interlibrary loan program](#) provided by the New Jersey State Library. Please complete the following survey by **Friday, August 22, 2025**, to let us know if you're interested.

[Learn more about this opportunity and take the JerseyCat survey.](#)

Expanding Digital Literacy Grant Program

Applications are now being accepted for the New Jersey State Library's Expanding Digital Literacy grant program. Public libraries can apply for up to \$25,000 to develop and implement digital skills programs in their communities. Selected projects will increase confidence and technology skills in participants, with a focus on underserved populations, including seniors, English language learners, low-income households, individuals with disabilities, and others as identified by the applicant. NJSL estimates that \$100,000 is available for approximately 4-6 grants. The deadline to apply is **September 12, 2025** at 11:59 p.m. [View guidelines and application instructions.](#)

Questions should be directed to grants@njstatelib.org with the subject "Expanding Digital Literacy."

Proposed Changes to N.J.A.C. 15:21 and 15:22

Over the last year, several library staff members from across the state participated in a review and update of the New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C.), N.J.A.C. 15:21 State Library Aid and Grants, and N.J.A.C. 15:22 Library Network Services. The [proposed changes are available for public comment](#) and published in the August 4, 2025, NJ Register. Comments may be submitted through **October 3, 2025**.

How to Create Better Hyperlinks for Accessibility

Learn why NJ libraries should ditch “Click Here” for good. [Read our latest marketing blog post](#) for tips on how to make link text clearer and more effective for everyone.

News from Around the State

Register for LibraryLinkNJ's Library Rights and Responsibilities Webinar

LibraryLinkNJ is pleased to offer a Library Rights & Responsibilities webinar on **August 20th, at 2 p.m.**, designed to help your library navigate its rights and meet its responsibilities with regard to federal agencies, protests, and political actions. [Learn more and register for the webinar here.](#)

NJ Treasury's Grants Management Office Programming

The NJ Treasury's [Grant Management Office](#) offers helpful tools for finding and managing grants. Plus, they just started offering grant-related programming. Their next event will be **September 10th at 1:00 p.m.**, covering best practices for documenting grant impact and success. [Register for the September 10th Grants Management Webinar.](#)

National Opportunities

The Presidential AI Challenge

The Presidential AI Challenge is a national challenge designed to foster interest and expertise in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology among America's youth. K-12 youth, educators, mentors, and community teams are encouraged to come together to solve real-world problems in their communities using AI-powered solutions, with an opportunity to showcase their solutions at a national level. Students and educators of all backgrounds and expertise are encouraged to participate.

[Guidelines on how to complete the challenge](#)

[Resources to promote the challenge to your patrons](#)

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 August, feel free to share within your communities.

- [A Pinelands Road Trip](#) - August 19th @ noon
 - [Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia](#) - August 20th @ 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:

- [Spotify Playlists for Library Programs](#)
- [Learn More About the New Instagram Edits App](#)
- [Grab Patrons' Attention With These Videos](#)
- [Understanding the Algorithm](#)
- [Have Hashtags Gone Out of Style?](#)

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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