

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

February 9, 2026

State Library Updates

State Librarian's Update - February

Please take a moment to read the [February 2026 New Jersey State Library update](#).

New Jersey Interlibrary Loan Survey

The New Jersey State Library, with the support of Interlibrary Loan Focus Group members, is collecting information on usage of JerseyCat, the statewide interlibrary loan program, and other resource-sharing solutions. We ask that you take a moment to complete this brief survey to help us develop a better picture of resource sharing among New Jersey libraries. [Click here to complete the survey](#).

We are seeking responses from representatives of all types of libraries, whether or not the library is an active participant in JerseyCat. Responses will preferably be submitted by staff members directly responsible for or engaged with interlibrary loan (here defined as borrowing and lending materials outside of your library collection, system or consortium). Thank you for taking the time to provide your answers. Please direct any questions to Project Specialist Michael Maziekien at mmaziekien@njstatelib.org.

LCBA Feature: Pennsauken Free Public Library

The latest New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act spotlight features the newly renovated Pennsauken Free Public Library. [Read about the new facility](#) that reopened its doors to the public on October 25, 2025. This project was supported in part by funds from the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act, administered by the New Jersey State Library.

A Wrap-Up Review of NJSL's Information Literacy Webinar Series

During the summer and fall of 2025, the State Library held two rounds of a 5-part information literacy webinar series, *The Four Pillars of Information Literacy in New Jersey*, for school librarians, school library media specialists, and public librarians. With sessions led by Jen Nelson, New Jersey State Librarian, Linda Braun, Principal at The LEO Group, and Ang Coxen, retired educator and New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) ACCESS consultant, the series of workshops provided an overview of the core principles driving New Jersey's emerging K-12 information literacy student learning standards. This is part of a larger Teaching Information Literacy project spearheaded by the New Jersey State Library, funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. [Read about how the webinar series went.](#)

Information Literacy Updates - New Training Module and Upcoming Professional Development Sessions

New Learning Module Available

LibraryLinkNJ, in partnership with the New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Department of Education, has released the final module of the five-part learning series, *Information Literacy: A Guide for New Jersey Communities*. Module 5: ["How Do I Create and Distribute Information?"](#) Whether you are a librarian, educator, parent, or community leader, these free resources will help you communicate effectively with learners of all ages about the essential skill of information literacy. [Access all five modules and learn more here.](#)

Upcoming Training Opportunities

There are two upcoming training opportunities on Information Literacy and registration is open to all!

Join Linda Braun and Ang Coxen at the NJLA/NJASL Conference for a special two hour Information Literacy session on **Wed., Feb. 18th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**. This session offers two professional development hours; [conference registration](#) is required.

If you're interested in helping colleagues better understand information literacy, please join Linda Braun and Ang Coxen for an all-day information literacy Train the Trainer session on **Sat., March 7th** at the Monroe Township Library, from **9:30 am to 4 pm**. The session is offered free of charge and lunch will be provided. [Registration is limited](#) and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. **The deadline for registration is February 26**. You will be notified and placed on a waiting list if registration exceeds capacity. This session offers six professional development hours.

Also, stay tuned for additional information literacy training opportunities that are upcoming in April 2026. Details will be announced soon!

Money Smart For Life - NJSL's Financial Literacy Initiative

The State Library recently hosted a series of financial literacy professional development webinars for NJ libraries. Webinar recordings and presentation slides are available on the [NJSL website](#).

Tell us about your financial literacy events!

During Financial Literacy Month in April 2026, all New Jersey public libraries are encouraged to showcase their financial education programs, events, and collections. An [interest form](#) is available for you to share your upcoming events and programs for NJSL to promote through a shared calendar and on social media. You can also provide speaker and website details if you want to recommend financial literacy resources for other libraries.

[Check out this video](#) to learn more about the Money Smart for Life initiative and how your library can get involved. If you have questions, contact Andrea Levandowski (alevandowski@njstatelib.org) or Sharon Rawlins (srawlins@njstatelib.org).

NJSL Presents: A Black History Month Special Event

In celebration of Black History Month, join the New Jersey State Library on **Saturday, February 21st**, for an in-person screening of the 3-part, New York Emmy Award-nominated PBS documentary, "The Price of Silence." Join us at the New Jersey State Museum Auditorium in Trenton, NJ, from 12:00 - 2:00 pm. The event is free and registration is encouraged as space is limited. [Click here to learn more and register](#).

News From Around the State

Tax Paperwork Information from the Social Security Administration

With tax season underway, the Social Security Administration encourages libraries to remind patrons that they can quickly and securely access their Benefit Statement through their personal [my Social Security account](#). The Social Security Benefit Statement, also known as Form SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S, is a tax form mailed each January to people who receive Social Security benefits. It shows the total benefits received during the previous year and is used to report Social Security income to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Through a *my* Social Security account, individuals can instantly view and download their Benefit Statement anytime, anywhere! Replacement tax forms for

the prior tax year are typically available starting February 1. For additional information, please visit SSA's [Information for Tax Preparers](#) webpage.

Also, a reminder that library staff may order Social Security publications directly and free-of-charge. Just go to [Publications | SSA](#) for the list of available publications, then click on the Order link at the top right hand corner of the page for instructions on how to order.

Mental Health First Aid Training

Registration is now open for LibraryLinkNJ's spring sessions of free, virtual Mental Health First Aid training! Mental health emergencies can touch nearly any aspect of library service, and staff in any position from any library type are invited to register for this valuable, free training course.

Upcoming Spring 2026 Sessions Include:

- [Youth Mental Health First Aid Training](#); Friday, March 6th, 9:00am-1:30pm
- [Adult Mental Health First Aid Training](#); Friday, April 17th, 9:00am-2:30pm

Registration is open now and limited to 30 participants per session. Questions? Contact Darby Malvey, LLNJ Programming & Outreach Manager: darby@librarylinknj.org.

National Opportunities

IMLS FY26 Funding Opportunities

[IMLS's Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) is live for the following library grant programs:

- [National Leadership Grants for Libraries \(NLG-L\)](#)
- [Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program \(LB21\)](#)
- [Native American Library Services: Basic Grants \(NAB\)](#)

The application deadline for all three programs is **March 13**.

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 February, feel free to share within your communities.

- [Know Your Rights Part 2 - Housing](#) - February 10th @ noon
 - [The 1759 Vought House: A Loyalist Homestead in Revolutionary Hunterdon County](#) - February 19th @ noon
 - [“The Price of Silence” – The Forgotten Story of New Jersey’s Enslaved People](#) - February 21st, This in-person event will be held at the NJ State Museum Auditorium @ noon
 - [Slavery and Emancipation Laws in 19th Century New Jersey](#) - February 24th @ noon
 - [Introduction to Finding Grants](#) - February 26th @ 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:

- [Marketing Trends for 2026](#)
- [A Guide to YouTube Shorts for Libraries](#)
- [Five Free Library Content Ideas You Can Post This Week](#)
- [The Secret to Social Media Hooks](#)
- [Refresh Your Library's Approach to Email Marketing](#)

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

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

Connecting people with information through libraries.

New Jersey State Library | [Website](#)



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