

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

March 16, 2026

State Library Updates

Get Tax Questions Answered!

To help New Jersey residents and small business owners during tax filing season, the New Jersey Society of CPAs (NJCPA) and the New Jersey State Library are hosting a virtual event where CPAs will be answering tax questions for free. NJCPA members will be available to answer questions on **Sunday, March 22, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.** Questions can be submitted online or by phone. Please share this event with your patrons!

[Visit the NJCPA webpage for more information.](#)

Read NJCPA's [press release](#) here.

Innovation at the Talking Book and Braille Center

On March 18, 2026, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Liz Burns, Director of the NJSL Talking Book and Braille Center, will give a presentation for NJLA members about the latest technology and innovations at TBBC. This presentation is sponsored by the NJLA Retired Members Section. [Register here.](#)

Information Literacy Training Opportunities

Registration is still open for the next round of Pillars of Information Literacy training sessions, taking place on **Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m.** Click each session to register and reserve your spot.

- [Pillar 1: Information Need](#), April 8th
- [Pillar 2: Information Identification and Evaluation](#), April 15th
- [Pillar 3: Information Use](#), April 22nd
- [Pillar 4: Information Creation and Distribution](#), April 29th

Also, if you haven't already had a chance to review the five-part learning series, *Information Literacy: A Guide for New Jersey Communities*, you can [access all five learning modules here](#).

Tell Us About Your Financial Literacy Events!

Is your library planning a financial literacy program or event for Financial Literacy Month, taking place in April 2026? If so, please let us know! We are building our statewide calendar of events and would like to include your library!

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.

Submit Your Event for a Money Smart for Life Award!

The [Money Smart for Life Award](#) is designed to recognize libraries coordinating programs that support financial literacy education to community members of any age. Submit an application to nominate your library's financial literacy program. Programs must be held between July 1, 2025, and May 15, 2026. The deadline to submit award applications is June 5, 2026.

More information is available at www.njstatelib.org/moneysmart.

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. [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). Please direct any questions to Project Specialist Michael Maziekien at mmaziekien@njstatelib.org.

News From Around the State

MentorNJ Task Force Annual Mega Meet-Up

Join the MentorNJ Task Force for their annual Mega Meet-up, providing library staff an opportunity to share in networking, peer support, and learning! Whether you're a veteran MentorNJ participant or will be joining for the first time, all are welcome at this fun, full-day virtual event on **Tuesday, March 24, from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.** [Visit the Mega Meet-up 2026 Event Webpage](#) for more details and to register.

National Opportunities

Participate in STEM Learning Programs Survey for IMLS-Funded Project

A research team is looking for library professionals working in a public library who would be willing to participate in this survey for an IMLS-funded project, Gauging Library Needs for Integrating Generative AI into Children's Maker-Based Learning (LG-259132- OLS-25). This project aims to investigate how public library professionals perceive the needs, opportunities, and challenges of integrating Generative AI (GenAI) into children's maker-based STEM learning programs in public libraries.

The survey will take approximately 15–20 minutes. At the end of the survey, you may choose to provide your email address if you are interested in a follow-up Zoom interview about your experiences. Interview participation is optional, and participants invited to the interview phase will receive a \$30 e-giftcard. [Click to complete survey.](#)

Please contact [Dr. Jiqun Liu](#) or [Dr. Yong Ju Jung](#) for any questions.

Carnegie Mellon Informatics and Mathematics Competition Seeking Participants

The Carnegie Mellon Informatics and Mathematics Competition (CMIMC) is a student-run organization at Carnegie Mellon University that hosts annual math and computer science contests open to all high school students (and younger years). They have an upcoming programming competition, and would really appreciate it if libraries could share this opportunity with their middle school and high school aged patrons.

The CMIMC Programming Contest takes place **April 18th - 20th, 2026**. This competition is virtual and contestants will submit their entries online. Students may register to compete in teams of 1-4.

Participants will tackle a series of algorithmic problems that test their knowledge of data structures, algorithms, and mathematical concepts. There will be prizes for

the top scoring individuals and teams! For registration and more information, [visit their website](#).

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 March, feel free to share within your communities.

- [“Know Your Rights” Part 3 – Disability and Places of Public Accommodations](#) - March 18th @ noon
 - [The Truth About Garden Myths](#) - March 23rd @ noon
 - [Healthy Living for your Mind and Body](#) - March 25th @ 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:

- [Library Content Brainstorm for 2026](#)

- [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](#)

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.

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