

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

May 4, 2026

State Library Updates

NJSL Presents May 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 May, feel free to share within your communities.

- [The Real “Stolen Election”: Frank Hague and New Jersey’s 1937 Race for Governor](#) - May 12th @ noon
- [Communicating Effectively With Dementia](#) - May 14th @ noon
- [Financial Planning for Mid-Career Professionals](#) - May 19th @ noon
- [Financial Side of College Graduation](#) - May 27th @ noon
- [Cancer Information Session](#) - May 29th @ noon

State Librarian's Update - May

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

Volunteers Needed!

The American Institutes for Research (AIR), IMLS's data collection contractor for the national Public Libraries Survey (PLS), is looking for library directors or their designees who typically complete the state annual report to participate in 60-minute virtual interviews to help test potential new and revised PLS questions. They are especially looking for libraries with bookmobiles and/or outreach vehicles. They plan to conduct one round of interviews in May. If you are interested in this opportunity to help shape prospective PLS questions, please contact the PLS team at AIR by email, PLS@air.org.

If you'd like more information about what this entails, please reach out to Jen Nelson at jnelson@njstatelib.org.

Request for Quotations for LSTA Five-Year Evaluation

The New Jersey State Library is inviting qualified contractors to respond to our Request for Quotations (RFQ) to design and conduct the required LSTA Five-Year Evaluation in accordance with the expectations of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). [View the RFQ on our webpage here.](#)

The selected vendor will be responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive evaluation framework that assesses program outcomes, impact, and effectiveness over the designated five-year period. The evaluation should incorporate both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, demonstrate familiarity with federal reporting standards, and result in clear, actionable findings suitable for submission to IMLS.

The [RFQ document](#) provides detailed information regarding the scope of work, deliverables, minimum qualifications, and submission requirements. Key dates are as follows:

RFQ Release Date: April 23, 2026

Deadline for Questions: June 16, 2026

Submission Deadline: June 30, 2026, 5:00 pm EST

Anticipated Contract Period: August 1, 2026 – March 30, 2027

All questions concerning this RFQ must be submitted in writing to mwalsh@njstatelib.org by the stated deadline. Responses to questions will be compiled and distributed to all invited vendors to ensure a fair and transparent process.

Money Smart for Life Award

Is your library hosting a financial literacy program? There's still time to apply for the Money Smart for Life Award! Programs must be held between July 1, 2025, and May 15, 2026. [Submit an application](#) to nominate your library's financial literacy program. The deadline for this application is **June 5, 2026**.

Information Literacy National Forum

Registration is now open for [Reimagining Information Literacy: A National Forum](#) which is scheduled to take place virtually on **July 14 and July 15, 2026**. Visit the website to review the agenda, learn about the speakers, and register. The Forum, funded in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, features a wide array of conversations and presentations designed to give participants a chance to think through what "Information literacy" means

today, and how we can best help learners of all ages develop core skills. Please contact [Jen Nelson](#) with questions or for additional information.

How to Use Canva Templates for Library Social Posts

Creating eye-catching social media posts for your library does not have to be time-consuming or complicated! Our new marketing blog walks you through how to use Canva as a free, easy tool to create polished graphics in minutes. Whether you are promoting programs, sharing resources, or highlighting collections, this guide will help you design with confidence. [Click to read.](#)

News From Around The State

Elizabeth Public Library Chosen to Host Custom-Designed Book-Sharing Box

Scholastic and the Little Free Library literacy nonprofit has announced that they are partnering with Dav Pilkey to install 100 custom-designed Little Free Library-branded book-sharing mounted boxes in schools and public libraries in underserved communities across the country. Congratulations to Elizabeth Public Library for being chosen to receive a Captain Underpants Book-Sharing Box! [Click here to learn more about this initiative.](#)

Getting Ready for the World Cup: Keeping NJ Kids Safe

Advocates for Children of New Jersey will be holding a dine & discuss series for parents, providers, and community partners to prepare for the World Cup in New Jersey. Each Wednesday in May from **6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**, join speakers as they present on the following topics:

- May 6, 2026 - Spotting the Signs: Protecting Children from Human Trafficking and Exploitation
- May 13, 2026 - Healthy for the Moment: Vaccinations, Public Health, and Keeping Families Well
- May 20, 2026 - Crowds, Chaos & Preparedness: Keeping Children Safe in Busy Public Spaces
- May 27, 2026 - Online Safety in a High-Visibility Moment: Protecting Kids and Teens During Major Events

[Click here for flyer with more information.](#)

Join LibraryLinkNJ for National Alliance on Mental Illness New Jersey (NAMI NJ) Overview

Representatives of the National Alliance on Mental Illness New Jersey (NAMI NJ) will provide an informative presentation on **May 20th, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.** This virtual overview will cover all of the supportive and free programming NAMI NJ has to offer local communities. Attendees will also learn about how they can leverage NAMI NJ as a resource for information and partnerships. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

National Opportunities

Participate in Research on How Public Libraries Address Loneliness in their Communities

A University of Texas at Austin research team is conducting a study on how public libraries address loneliness in their communities. If interested in participating, please [take this survey](#).

In addition, they are recruiting participants for follow-up interviews. Individuals who are interested in sharing more in-depth experiences are invited to [complete this brief form](#).

Participation is voluntary, and all responses will be kept confidential. If you have any questions, contact [Qianzi Cao](#), PhD Student, The University of Texas at Austin.

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:

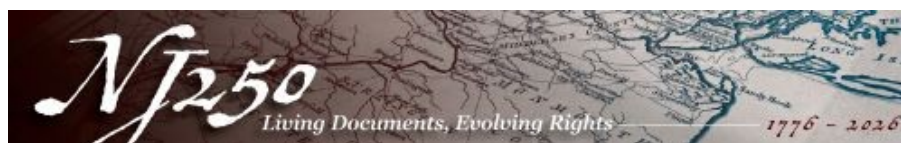
- [How to Turn One Library Program into Multiple Marketing Opportunities](#)
- [Library Content Brainstorm for 2026](#)
- [Marketing Trends for 2026](#)
- [A Guide to YouTube Shorts for Libraries](#)
- [Five Free Library Content Ideas You Can Post This Week](#)

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](#)



NJ250: *Living Documents, Evolving Rights* - New Jersey Through Three Constitutions
<https://www.njstatelib.org/nj250>

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