

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries
April 14, 2025

State Library Updates

Press Release: NJ Attorney General's Office Joins Multistate Lawsuit to Stop the Dismantling of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

The [State of New Jersey Attorney General's](#) office has joined with 20 other states in filing a lawsuit against the Trump administration over its Executive Order 14,238 dismantling the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The New Jersey State Library relies on these funds to provide core services to the state's libraries and residents. Jen Nelson, State Librarian, notes that "The impact of any reduction in funding would be harmful to New Jersey residents and libraries. I am hopeful that the Attorney General's lawsuit will be successful in restoring IMLS." [Read the full press release.](#)

NJ State Library Sessions at NJLA Conference

We are counting down the weeks until the annual [New Jersey Library Association conference](#) in Atlantic City on May 28th-30th! Registration is now open and we hope that you'll stop by our booth in the exhibit hall to say hello and attend some of the engaging presentations by NJ State Library staff. [Click here to see a schedule](#) of sessions led or moderated by our staff members.

Digital Equity Training Program Grant

The New Jersey Department of Labor just released a new initiative dedicated to enhancing digital literacy and promoting equity across communities. Libraries are vital partners in their mission. NJ DOL invites public libraries to apply and participate in this [Digital Equity Training Program grant opportunity](#).

There is \$6,000,000 available in grant funds; the maximum grant award is \$1,000,000.

Please note, a mandatory Technical Assistance webinar will be held **April 21, 2025 at 10 AM**. Should you be interested in attending the TA session, please send an email with your name, email address, and organization to WFNJ@dol.nj.gov.

RevolutionNJ Spotlight: How Will Your Community Commemorate the 250th?

The 250th Anniversary of the United States is coming in 2026! This once-in-a-generation opportunity allows New Jerseyans across the state to create a lasting legacy. RevolutionNJ is asking counties and municipalities to join in commemorating the 250th by facilitating new partnerships, programs, and events that will engage local businesses, non-profits, artists, scholars, schools, universities and colleges, libraries, civic organizations, historic sites, community members, and visitors from all over. Check out the ways your community can participate: <https://www.revnj.org/communities>.

NJ Historical Commission Seeking Digitized Resources

The New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, is compiling a list of online digital resources for each of New Jersey's 21 counties that are free and easily accessible online. They aim to connect teachers and students with accessible online archival resources about their hometown and/or county, directing them to digitized newspaper articles, letters, diaries, maps, census records, books, flyers, posters, photographs, and more.

This digital resources list, with resources listed in each county, will support the [History Happened Here](#) program, encouraging students to research and learn about history within and around their hometown and/or region. History Happened Here is a program of [RevolutionNJ](#) commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in 2026.

If you have **digital NJ county-level resources** to share, please email Bob Fenster at robert.fenster@sos.nj.gov.

LibraryLinkNJ Mental Health First Aid Training

LibraryLinkNJ will continue their partnership with Hackensack Meridian Health to offer virtual Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid training courses. 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 free training course taught by certified Mental Health First Aid instructors.

Registration is now open for the following spring training courses and is limited to 30 participants for each session:

- [Youth Mental Health First Aid Training](#) - April 15th, 9:00AM-1:30PM
 - [Adult Mental Health First Aid Training](#) - May 16th, 9:00AM-2:30PM
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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 April, feel free to share within your communities.

- [Listen More, Talk Less: A Key to Career Success](#) - April 16th @ noon
 - [Introduction to Proposal Writing](#) - April 17th @ noon
 - [Coping with Deer](#) - April 23rd @ 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 [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:

- [Understanding the Algorithm](#)
- [Have Hashtags Gone Out of Style?](#)
- [Look Out for These Social Media Trends in 2025](#)
- [Inclusive Marketing for Libraries](#)
- [How to Fix a Creative Block in 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 [here](#).

Connecting people with information through libraries.