

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

April 27, 2026

State Library Updates

Request for Quote for LSTA Five-Year Evaluation

The New Jersey State Library is inviting qualified contractors to respond to our Request for Quote (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.

NJ250 Digital Exhibit April Recap

We continue to celebrate 250 years since the Revolution, focusing on New Jersey's role in this historical time period through our digital NJ250 exhibit. We

encourage you to explore our rich collections that preserve this state's remarkable history. These were the exhibits we shared this month, highlighting New Jersey stories and trends that stood out from each constitutional era.

Revolutionary Era (1776 - 1844)

- [Seditious Words - Jail time or fine for your words in New Jersey](#)
- [New Jersey Almanacs: A Social Commentary](#)

Modern Era (1947 - Present)

- [Karen Quinlan: Right to Privacy, Right to Die - A court ruling that would forever change medical care](#)

Stay tuned, as we continue to debut new content monthly! Check out the full digital exhibit here: www.njstatelib.org/nj250.

New Jersey Center for the Book Celebrates National Library Week with Library of Congress Card Catalog Kiosk at the NJ State Library

The New Jersey Center for the Book has received one of 56 card catalogs brought out of retirement by the Library of Congress and distributed through its Center for the Book affiliate network. The card catalog has been transformed into a Library of Congress information kiosk and will be on display for a one-year period beginning April 2026 at the New Jersey State Library, located at 185 West State St., Trenton, NJ, on Level 4. The State Library is open to the public Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. [Click here to read the press release](#).

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

Join the Demo of a State-Funded Mental Wellness Platform

Join LibraryLinkNJ for an introduction to Soluna! Soluna is a [state-funded mental wellness platform](#) that can help New Jersey teens build resilience, manage stress, and improve overall wellbeing. Attend the virtual demo on **May 5th from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** to learn how to utilize this resource and find out how you can help connect your young adult patrons to the mental health support that Soluna provides. [Click here for more details and to register](#).

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.

- [Importance of Estate Planning: Preparing for the Inevitable](#) - April 28th @ noon
- [First-Time Homebuyer Information Session](#) - April 30th @ noon

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:

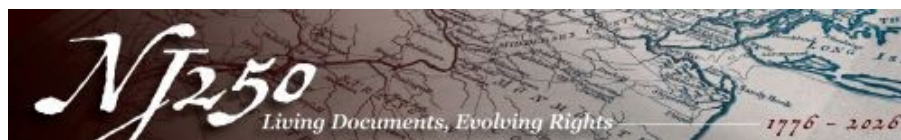
- [How to Turn One Library Program into Multiple Marketing Opportunities](#)
- [Library Content Brainstorm for 2026](#)
- [Marketing Trends for 2026](#)
- [A Guide to YouTube Shorts for Libraries](#)
- [Five Free Library Content Ideas You Can Post This Week](#)

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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