

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

March 9, 2026

State Library Updates

State Librarian's Update - March

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

Digital Skills Training User Group

The Digital Skills User Group will meet on **Monday, March 16, from 2:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.** This group is for any library staff member who is interested in helping patrons with technology. During our next meeting, we will discuss the Public Library Association's tool [DigitalLearn.org](#) and explore how it compares to other digital skills curricula, including Northstar. Join representatives from libraries that have received awards from PLA to host workshops using the DigitalLearn.org platform with their patrons to take a closer look at this free resource. We are shifting this conversation from our scheduled February meeting since we had to cancel during the last blizzard! [Register here](#). Questions? Contact [Andrea Levandowski](#).

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

Information Literacy Training Opportunities

Webinar Series

Registration is now 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

If you are interested in hearing about how the Summer and Fall 2025 Pillars of Information Literacy sessions went, check out this recent [wrap-up article](#).

Learning Modules

LibraryLinkNJ, in partnership with the New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Department of Education, has released a five-part learning series, *Information Literacy: A Guide for New Jersey Communities*. [Access all five modules and learn more here](#).

New!! Money Smart for Life Awards

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 available at www.njstatelib.org/moneysmart.

Money Smart for Life Guest Blog Post

For young people, developing financial literacy early on is not just helpful – it's essential. It provides the foundation for a stable and secure future, empowering you to navigate life's financial challenges with confidence. To understand why, in more detail, check out this recent guest blog post on the topic, [Why Is Financial Literacy an Important Skill for Young People?](#)

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.

Learn More About the Money Smart for Life Initiative

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

Financial Literacy Professional Development Webinars

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](#).

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.](#)

News From Around the State

Submit Local History Collection Experiences to *The Chronicle*

Please consider sharing your organization's experiences promoting/preserving its local history collection with the members of the [NJLA History & Preservation Section](#) and the NJLA community via the section's newsletter, *The Chronicle*. Send articles, announcements or events information to kkelly@sclibnj.org by **Monday, March 16th** for the upcoming Winter Issue. Future event announcements will cover April-June for this issue.

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

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.

- [Mary Climbs In: The Journeys of Bruce Springsteen's Women Fans](#) - March 11th @ noon
 - ["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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