

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

January 27, 2026

State Library Updates

Tatiana Bryant Appointed as Associate Director of NJSL Research Library

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Tatiana Bryant as the new Associate Director of the New Jersey State Library's Research Library. Under the direction of the Research Library Director, Tatiana will lead key services and programs within the unit and work collaboratively with staff to increase visibility and promote the Library's value to state government departments and officials. [Click to read the announcement.](#)

New Information Literacy Module Available: "How Do I Create and Distribute Information?"

LibraryLinkNJ, in partnership with the New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Department of Education, has released the final module of the five-part learning series, *Information Literacy: A Guide for New Jersey Communities*.

- Module 5: ["How Do I Create and Distribute Information?"](#)

Whether you are a librarian, educator, parent, or community leader, these free resources will help you communicate effectively with learners of all ages about the essential skill of information literacy.

[Access all five modules and learn more here.](#)

Money Smart For Life - New Video and Professional Development Webinars!

[Money Smart for Life](#) is a new initiative from the New Jersey State Library designed to help libraries educate their communities on the skills needed for long-term financial well-being. [Check out this 10-minute video](#) to hear from your NJSL colleagues, Sharon Rawlins and Andrea Levandowski, as they discuss some of the reasons why financial literacy is an important topic for all ages. Please note that we've organized the video into chapters so that you can more quickly jump to the sections that you are most interested in.

Upcoming Professional Development Webinars

Sign up now for Money Smart for Life webinars for library staff. Learn about money skills, resources, and ideas for your library's financial literacy programing.

- [There is More to Money Than Spending Part II - Jan. 29, 11 am](#)
- [The Librarian's Tax Toolkit: Essential Federal and State Resources - Jan. 29, 11:30 am](#)
- [Fraud Watch: Vigilance Against Cybercrime and Government Imposter Scams - Feb. 2, 10 am](#)
- [Public Benefits for Older Adults and Understanding Social Security - Feb. 3, 10 am](#)
- [Understanding Types of Investments - Feb. 4, 10 am](#)
- [The Power of Investing Over Time - Feb. 5, 10 am](#)

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 for Money Smart for Life](#) 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.

If you have questions, contact Andrea Levandowski (alevandowski@njstatelib.org) or Sharon Rawlins (srawlins@njstatelib.org).

NJSL Presents: A Black History Month Special Event

Please join the New Jersey State Library in celebrating Black History Month on **Saturday, February 21st, 2026** for an in-person screening of the 3-part, New York Emmy Award-nominated PBS documentary, "The Price of Silence." Join us at the New Jersey State Museum Auditorium in Trenton, NJ, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. The event is **FREE** and registration is encouraged as space is limited.

Upon conclusion of the documentary screening, we will hold a panel discussion with producer Ridgeley Hutchinson and documentary contributors Dr. Linda J. Caldwell Epps, Beverly Mills, Toni Hendrix, Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter, and Dr. Damali Campbell-Oparaji.

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

Please help us spread the word about this special event by sharing this flyer ([PDF](#) or [JPG](#)) within your communities!

Marketing Trends for 2026

New year, new strategy! Planning your library's marketing for 2026? Our latest blog highlights five marketing trends predicted to shape the year, without the AI buzzwords. [Read the full blog](#).

News From Around the State

Secure Your Spot at LibraryLinkNJ's Virtual Winter Meeting

The LibraryLinkNJ team has extended the participation deadline for their annual Winter Meeting on **February 10th**! This virtual event will bring library staff from across the state together to highlight the amazing work happening in New Jersey's libraries.

They're looking for volunteers to spend a minute or two sharing their library's success stories with the NJ library community during the meeting! Shout out your incredible colleagues, talk about an amazing program, or share details on your favorite library initiative from 2025. [Learn more and sign up](#).

Share NJ TRANSIT's Language Survey with Patrons

NJ TRANSIT is conducting a Language Survey to better understand the needs of their customers who may not speak and/or read English well. The survey will ask customers what they think of NJ TRANSIT's tools for providing language assistance and how those tools can be improved and refined.

The survey is available online, **until February 13th**, in multiple languages, and phone assistance with an interpreter is also available for languages not listed. Below are ways you can share the survey opportunity with your patrons:

- Sending them directly to the NJ Transit website: <https://www.njtransit.com/language>.
- Printing and posting [this flyer](#) at your library
- Navigating clients to NJ TRANSIT's official [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) sites and sharing the NJ TRANSIT Language Survey post.
- Post on your own socials with this ['Language Survey – Social' graphic](#).

For customers who speak and/or read Haitian Creole, telephone assistance with a live interpreter is available. Please call 973-491-8031, leave a message, and someone on the team will follow up to complete the survey with an interpreter. This phone number is also available to anyone who prefers to complete the

survey by phone or who speaks a language other than those currently offered in the written format.

Please forward any questions regarding the survey to Juliet Herndon, Director, Title VI & Language Access, NJ TRANSIT at language@njtransit.com.

Participate in NJ Makers Day this March!

The 12th Annual [New Jersey Makers Day](#) will be **March 20-22, 2026**. If your library would like to participate, [fill out the form](#) to register.

National Opportunities

New Field Guide Available for Libraries to Prepare to Serve Their Communities During Crises

A new national resource is now available to help libraries prepare for major community emergencies, including pandemics, natural disasters, and societal crises, before they hit. Centering Community: Library Staff Responding to Crisis – A Field Guide, developed through the Ready NOW project, provides practical strategies and examples to help libraries support their communities before, during, and after disruptions of varying scale. [Download the Field Guide](#).

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, feel free to share within your communities.

- [Simple Steps to Successful Networking Opportunities](#) - February 4th @ noon
 - [Know Your Rights Part 2 - Housing](#) - February 10th @ noon
 - [The 1759 Vought House: A Loyalist Homestead in Revolutionary Hunterdon County](#) - February 19th @ 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:

- [A Guide to YouTube Shorts for Libraries](#)
- [Five Free Library Content Ideas You Can Post This Week](#)
- [The Secret to Social Media Hooks](#)
- [Refresh Your Library's Approach to Email Marketing](#)
- [How to Create Better Hyperlinks for Accessibility](#)

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](#)



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