

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

September 28, 2026

State Library Updates

New Tool Available for JerseyConnect

JerseyConnect is pleased to announce the launch of our new [Status Page](#). This new communication tool will help us keep our library customers informed with real-time updates about planned maintenance, service disruptions, and major outages. Going forward, the Status Page will be the primary method JerseyConnect staff use to communicate upcoming maintenance windows and service incidents.

Visit <https://status.jerseyconnect.net> to view the current operational status and incident history for our core services:

- Email Hosting
- Website Hosting
- JerseyConnect Network

To receive notifications, simply visit the Status Page, click **Subscribe to Updates**, and choose your preferred contact method.

The Status Page is designed to keep you informed about service availability and planned maintenance. To report an issue, request assistance, or submit a question, please continue to use our Help Desk at <https://support.jerseyconnect.net> or email support@jerseyconnect.net.

For Library Trustees: The New Jersey Library Trustee Institute

The New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Library Trustee Association invite library trustees to the New Jersey Library Trustee Institute at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters on **Saturday, October 17, 9 am - 4 pm.**

The day will be filled with engaging presentations such as "A Vision for the Library in an AI World," with Lauren Mecca, "Legislative Focus," with the New Jersey Library Association Public Policy Committee, and a panel discussion about Library Friends and Foundations. Finally, we will close out the day with "Working With a Library Attorney," a panel discussion with Library Board Presidents, Library Directors, and Library Attorneys.

Also, please be advised that the number of trustees your library sends to the Trustee Institute should be less than the amount that would constitute a quorum for your library board.

A link to registration was emailed to all NJ public library directors. If you have any questions or need registration information, contact Bob Keith at rkeith@njstatelib.org.

New Jersey State Library Awarded National Leadership Grant to Expand Civic AI Learning through Libraries

The New Jersey State Library (NJSL), an affiliate of Thomas Edison State University, has been awarded a \$299,250 National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for Engaging Communities with Artificial Intelligence (AI). NJSL will lead a three-year, multistate initiative called CivicAI, designed to help members of the public understand, use, and engage with AI. Partners include the Hawai'i State Public Library System, the Montana State Library, and [InnovateUS](#), a project of [The Governance Lab \(The GovLab\)](#).

[Click here to read the full press release.](#)

Get Money Smart-er with Webinars from the NJ State Library!

For a second year, the New Jersey State Library invites libraries to take part in Money Smart for Life. This program helps libraries bring financial literacy opportunities to patrons of all ages and backgrounds—from children and teens to adults and seniors during Financial Literacy Month in April 2027.



Library staff are invited to webinars this October to spark ideas for their own programs and learn about resources available for NJ seniors.

Money Smart for Life
NJ STATE LIBRARY

Money Smart for Life: Thinking outside the Financial Literacy Box

Tuesday, October 20th, 1:00-2:00pm

Learn about strategies for working with partners to make financial literacy interesting and meaningful.

NJSave and GetSetUp: Resources for Older New Jerseyans

Wednesday, October 21st, 10:00-11:00am

Explore statewide services that save seniors money.

Money Smart for Life: Playing with Your Money

Wednesday, October 28th, 1:00-2:00pm

This panel will share their fun and educational programs for children and youth.

More information and registration links are on the Money Smart for Life webpage (<https://www.njstatelib.org/moneysmart>), and watch for additional updates soon. Join us and help your community build their money skills and confidence! Questions? Contact Sharon Rawlins (srawlins@njstatelib.org) and Andrea Levandowski (alevandowski@njstatelib.org).

NJ250 Digital Exhibit September Recap

September brought two new stories from New Jersey's modern era to our NJ250 digital exhibit!

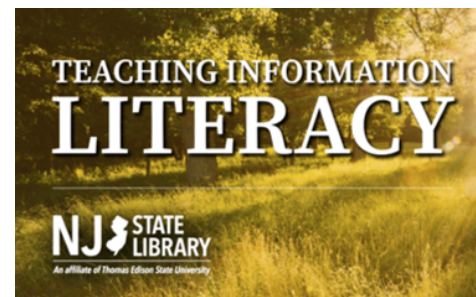
- [The Fight for a "Thorough and Efficient" Education](#) - Explore the landmark Abbott v. Burke case and the decades-long fight to ensure New Jersey students have the right to a thorough and efficient education.
- [State Symbols: A Living Gallery](#) - Archivist and artist Lois Bredlow explores the stories behind New Jersey's state symbols through this fascinating collection of original artwork and information.



Stay tuned for new digital exhibits coming next month, and don't miss the opportunity to [tour the physical exhibit](#) on **October 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th at 1:30 pm!**

Teaching Information Literacy Community of Practice (CoP)

Anyone who works with youth in school, public, or academic libraries is invited to register to join the NJ State Library-sponsored monthly virtual Community of Practice (CoP) meetups. You will have the opportunity to engage with colleagues by sharing information and gaining knowledge of information literacy that you can use with youth in your libraries. The CoP meetups will be held on the second Tuesday of each month, with alternating meeting times of noon – 1 pm one month, and 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm the next month. The meetings will be held on



Microsoft Teams. The next meeting is **October 13, 2026, 4 pm – 5 pm**, where Lisa Manganello, South Brunswick High School Media Specialist, will be the guest speaker. Visit the [website to register](#) for these meetups. Contact Sharon Rawlins, srawlins@njstatelib.org, with any questions.

Building a Library “Brand Voice”

Does your library's social media sound like your library? It's easy for library posts to become a list of facts about an event, program, or resource. But your library has a personality, and your social media should show it! Our latest marketing blog shares tips for finding your library's unique voice and using it to create more engaging, authentic content for your community. [Click here to read](#).

News From Around The State

Registration Now Open for LibraryLinkNJ's Virtual Collections Conference

Registration is now open for LibraryLinkNJ's 6th annual one-day virtual conference! Join them on Thursday, October 22nd for The Collections Conference, a free, full day opportunity to learn from colleagues and focus your energy on a core aspect of libraries everywhere!

[Visit the event webpage](#) to see the conference schedule and register!



National Opportunities

Upcoming Digital Shelf Webinars

The Digital Shelf is an ongoing collaboration between [Lyrasis](#), [Readers First](#), and [COSLA](#). Below is the lineup of sessions for the rest of 2026 in the Digital Shelf Series. All webinars are free, open to all in the library community, offer continuing education credit to participating librarians, and feature AI-generated captions (ASL interpretation available via es@lyrasis.org). Click on each webinar title to learn more about the topic and register.

- [Accessibility on the Library Shelf](#) - Tuesday, September 29th, 1:00 - 2:00 PM - *Of special interest to those in the NLS network*

- [What Are "Reasonable" Library Costs?](#) - Tuesday, October 13th, 1:00 - 2:00 PM
 - [AI Toolkit Showcase](#) - Tuesday, November 10th, 1:00 - 2:00 PM
 - [Unlocking the Digital Shelf: State Laws Reshaping Library Ebook Access](#) - Tuesday, December 8th, 1:00 - 2:00 PM
-

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 September, feel free to share within your communities.



- [Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention](#) - September 29th @ noon
 - [Library and NJ250 Exhibit Talk](#) - September 30th @ 1:30 p.m.
-

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:

- [Intro to Social Calendar Planning for Libraries](#)
- [How New Jersey Libraries Can Turn Archives Into Engaging Posts](#)
- [Early Marketing: How to Build Excitement for Your Library's Work](#)
- [Community Influencers: The New Word-of-Mouth](#)
- [How to Use Canva Templates for Library Social Posts](#)

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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