



2019

YEAR END WRAP-UP

NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY

ROLE OF THE STATE LIBRARY

The New Jersey State Library, an affiliate of Thomas Edison State University (TESU), serves a broad variety of functions. These functions include delivering direct services to state government, to state employees, and to the public. The State Library provides a law library, a research library, and a library for the visually impaired. We foster library development and innovation throughout the state, delivering statewide services that promote equity of access, leading initiatives that respond to current and timely issues, and building alliances that position the State Library to develop local partnerships and collaborations. We serve many diverse communities in New Jersey. We do it in a way that is uniquely ours and speaks to the needs of our particular constituencies. In the case of the New Jersey State Library, we interpret our overarching purpose as “connecting people with information through libraries”. Under that umbrella, we strive to fulfill all of the roles mentioned above.

The New Jersey State Library provides services that fall into one or more of four primary areas:

- The State Library Information Center (SLIC) is NJSL’s operating library that serves the state legislature, state employees, and TESU students, faculty, and mentors.
- The Talking Book and Braille Center (TBBC) provides free library services for New Jersey residents who cannot read regular printed books due to a visual or physical impairment or reading disability.
- NJSL’s library development bureaus provide support for library development across the multi-type New Jersey library community. Their services range from providing statewide resources and continuing education activities for staff and trustees to offering leadership models and opportunities for innovation.
- Statewide services and network support, which includes support for summer reading and other programming, technological infrastructure and outreach, statewide electronic resources, and continuing education and professional development.

STATE LIBRARY MANAGEMENT TEAM



TOP ROW FROM LEFT

MARY L. CHUTE

State Librarian
New Jersey

MARGARET NIZOLEK

Chief Deputy State Librarian
State Library Information Center (SLIC)

ADAM SZCZEPANIAK

Deputy State Librarian
Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC)

SHERI SHAFER

Chief Financial Officer
New Jersey State Library

BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT

KATHLEEN MOELLER-PEIFFER

Deputy State Librarian
Library Support Services (LSS)

MICHELE STRICKER

Deputy State Librarian
Lifelong Learning

PEGGY CADIGAN

Deputy State Librarian
Innovation & Strategic Partnerships

TIFFANY MCCLARY

Director
Communications, Marketing & Outreach

The Office of the State Librarian promotes exemplary service in accordance with New Jersey Library Law; supports professional development through LibraryLinkNJ, the New Jersey Library Cooperative; and is responsible for Information Technology through JerseyConnect under Director Mike Rasimowicz; the Business Office; and the Office of Communications, Marketing & Outreach. The Office of the State Librarian is also responsible for library development through the Lifelong Learning, Library Support Services, and Innovation & Strategic Partnerships business units.

STATEWIDE & NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

RESPONDING TO CURRENT ISSUES

Opioid Overdose Prevention Network

NJSL arranged for an instructor from the Rutgers University Robert Wood Johnson Medical School's Division of Addiction Psychiatry to provide training for libraries about opioid abuse, overdoses, and naloxone. The New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Department of Health, funded the training.

Career Connections

NJSL nominated the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) for the 2019 Library Champion Award because of our successful, long-standing partnership to provide workforce and literacy training across the state through NJ public libraries. This past year was the third and final year of the New Jersey Libraries Career Connections Grant from the LWD for uniform career guidance and job search assistance services. The New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) honored LWD with the award during NJLA's annual conference.



From left: Andrea Levandowski (NJSL), Mary L. Chute (NJSL), Dr. Danielle Jubanyik (LWD), and Mimi Lee (NJSL).

FEDERAL GRANT AWARDS

Cross Cultural Communicators in Libraries



The second CCCiL workshop at Ovitt Library in Ontario, California.

NJSL entered year two of its *Cross Cultural Communicators in Libraries* (CCCiL) program after receiving a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for \$222,697. After librarians successfully completed the cultural competence training for year one, they will receive face-to-face workshops on interpretation and translation skills in year two.

A total of 16 workshops for a total of 249 participants will be delivered in four partnering states, including: California, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut.

The program will culminate with each participant becoming the base members of the National Network of Spanish-Speaking Bilingual Library Professionals.

IMLS National Leadership Reentry Grant

IMLS awarded NJSL \$628,774 of federal grant funding in the National Leadership Grants for Libraries category. NJSL and its partners—the New Jersey State Parole Board, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Long Branch Public Library, five additional New Jersey libraries, and the Free Library of Philadelphia—began collaborating with other government and nonprofit organizations for the two-year project that will launch January 2020.

Participating public libraries will provide services to citizens returning to their communities after having completed their prison terms.



LEADERSHIP ROLES & RECOGNITION

- » **Mary L. Chute**, *State Librarian*, was selected to receive the Leadership & Professional Achievement Award from the Association of Specialized Government and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA). This prestigious award is presented to members exemplifying leadership and achievement in one or more of the following areas: consulting, library cooperation, networking, statewide services and programs, and state library development.
- » **Michele Stricker**, *Deputy State Librarian* for Lifelong Learning, was selected among 54 other librarians from across the nation as one of *Library Journal's* 2019 Movers & Shakers. Michele's award was in the "Community Builder" category for her extensive work in disaster preparedness, libraries as recovery centers, and community sustainability.
- » **Sharon Rawlins**, NJSL's *Youth Services Consultant*, was named the 2019 Librarian of the Year by the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA). The Librarian of the Year serves as a role model, enhancing the image of librarianship and advancing the positive visibility of libraries to the community.
- » **Edith Beckett**, NJSL's Technical Services *Unit Supervisor*, was honored with a 2019 Recognition Award from the New Jersey Association of Library Assistants. The Recognition Award is given each year to a dedicated librarian who encourages and supports participation in career development or activities for library assistants in New Jersey.
- » **Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer**, *Deputy State Librarian* for Library Support Services, was elected to the Council of the American Library Association (ALA) as a 2019-2022 Councilor-at-Large. Kathleen was named among 34 members who will serve a three-year term on the council, which is ALA's policy-making body that delegates to the divisions of the association authority to plan and carry out programs and activities.
- » **Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer** was also elected to the Lyrasis Board of Trustees for a three-year term (2019-2022). Lyrasis is a world-wide collaborative that supports enduring access to our shared academic, scientific, and cultural heritage through leadership in open technologies, content services, digital solutions, and cooperative endeavors with archives, libraries, museums and knowledge communities. Kathleen is currently the only trustee representing state libraries.

PROMOTING EQUITY OF ACCESS

JerseyConnect

Jersey Connect provides state-of-the-art physical network infrastructure and services to public libraries throughout the state. In recent years, they have provided supplemental support in specific areas, such as the E-rate telecommunications discount program application process and a “managed WiFi” initiative that supports set up and data collection.

Technology Study

NJSL’s JerseyConnect provides the technology backbone for over 350 libraries in the state. In an effort to effectively plan for maintenance and future development of statewide support for New Jersey’s libraries’ technology needs, NJSL contracted a consultant, Carson Block, to interview consortia, county and individual library administrators, and staff throughout New Jersey, including NJSL. Topics covered address both the current state of the network and what might be done to enhance JerseyConnect in the future. Findings reflect that JerseyConnect fills a critical void for many of the public libraries in the state, especially the small and medium sized.



The study has concluded and the full report can be found on NJSL’s website: www.njstatelib.org/infrastructure-study.

The Talking Book and Braille Center

The Talking Book and Braille Center provides no-cost, home-delivered services, on behalf of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled to children, teens and adults in New Jersey who have difficulty reading standard print or trouble holding a book.

Audiobooks on Demand



NJSL’s Talking Book & Braille Center introduced a better way for patrons to borrow audiobooks. The new program makes audiobooks provided by the National Library Service (NLS) for the blind and physically handicapped available the same day they are available in their Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) system. In the past, patrons have had to wait weeks or months. With Audiobooks on Demand, everyone gets the books they want when they want them.

LEAP Partnership

NJSL and New Jersey Human Services (NJHS) collaborated to launch a vision assistive technology program in Trenton. The program, which is a collaboration between the NJHS's Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI), the New Jersey State Library's Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC) and Advancing Opportunities, provides free computer and iPad training classes to adults 55 years of age and older who are experiencing vision loss.

Dr. Bernice Davis, Executive Director of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired; Elisa Neira, NJ Dept. of Human Services Deputy Commissioner; and Adam Szczepaniak, Director of the New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony held at TBBC, marking October as Blindness Awareness Month, which was recognized by a proclamation signed by Governor Murphy.



Public Library Cards for Students

The New Jersey State Library, the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE), the New Jersey Library Association, and the New Jersey Association of School Libraries joined forces to launch Libraries = Success, a statewide marketing campaign geared toward encouraging middle school students across the state to sign up for a library card through their local public library. The goal is to build a bridge between the school district and their local public library and to connect the school librarian with the public librarian.

NJSL supplied each participating library with book bags and earbuds as incentive gifts for students, as well as posters for each library and school location.

The New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project



The New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project (NJDNP), a collaboration of the New Jersey State Library, the State Archives, and Rutgers University Libraries, has received an additional grant of \$219,609 in a second round of funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional historical New Jersey newspapers will be digitized and made available to the public via the Library of Congress' Chronicling America website.

This project is a collaborative effort to digitize, preserve, and promote New Jersey's historic newspapers, making them freely available to the public.



The April 15, 1912 edition of the Perth Amboy Evening News reports on the Titanic's collision with an iceberg.

DELIVERY OF DIRECT SERVICE

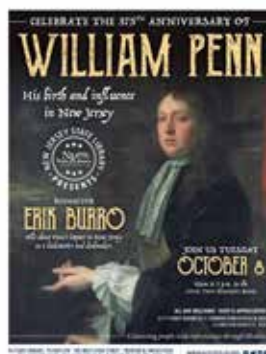
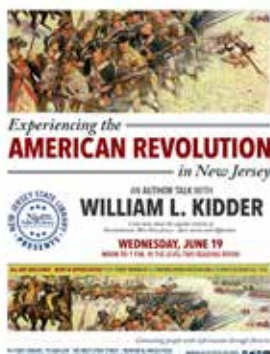
SUPPORTING THE STAFF AND STUDENTS OF THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY

NJSL assists TESU students, staff, and instructional designers with research needs and provides access to its collections, resources, and interlibrary loan services. Twice per year, NJSL provides library orientation for both TESU's onsite Accelerated 2nd Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students.

In addition, this year, NJSL Information Center Director and Associate Director met with the site visit team assigned to review the new Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree program for the School of Business and Management.



OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Programming

NJSL offers a wide variety of topic-based programming in order to raise awareness of NJSL among state employees and the public. 74 classes and 12 programs drew 1,383 people to the library. In addition, NJSL presented an overview of legal resources and services available at NJSL for a Judiciary committee interested in working more closely with the NJSL Law Library.

NJSL also distributed information on Law Library resources and federal and state government publications to the incoming group of Appellate Law Clerks, and we held an introduction to State Library resources and services for 45 new Deputy Attorneys General.

During Patriot's Week, the State Library hosted an author talk with Larry Kidder to discuss General Washington's Ten Crucial Days.

New Jersey Makers Day

Makers Day is a statewide celebration of making and maker culture that takes place annually in New Jersey. The primary goal is to enhance community engagement and facilitate connections among New Jersey residents by exploring new and interesting opportunities for community-wide education, entrepreneurship, and hands-on learning experiences.

In 2019, New Jersey Makers Day activities were held in 303 participating locations across 20 counties. These locations hosted an estimated 2,755 individual programs with a total estimated attendance of 83,290.

Additionally, NJSL partially sponsored makerspace sub-grants to New Jersey libraries.



New Jersey Makers Day included button making, donuts, a spice rub station, popsicle stick shelves, origami, and seed bombs.

NJ Conference of Mayors (NJCM)

NJSL participated as an exhibitor at the New Jersey Conference of Mayors 56th Annual Spring Conference & Exposition. The NJCM Annual Spring Conference is heavily attended by New Jersey mayors, municipal and state officials, legislators, and businesses throughout the state. This is a rare opportunity to network and showcase the services and offerings of New Jersey libraries.



NJ League of Municipalities Conference (NJLMC)

NJSL exhibited alongside TESU at the NJLMC, which gathers municipal officials together annually in November at the Atlantic City Convention Center. NJSL promoted the services of NJSL, as well as the electronic resources available statewide, especially the business resource, ReferenceUSA. The conference also featured lectures and meetings.

From left: NJSL Deputy State Librarian Peggy Cadigan and PR & Marketing Coordinator Susette Brooks at the NJ League of Municipalities Conference.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT



From left: Peggy Cadigan (NJSL), Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer (NJSL), and the Library Leadership Academy graduating class.

Library Leadership Academy

The Library Leadership Academy once again offered librarians the opportunity to think big and creatively about their libraries through participation in an eight-part series. The program included presentations by speakers on varied topics, such as marketing and branding, advocacy, emerging technologies, and hands-on training about conducting a community needs assessment.

Activate Sustainable Thinking for the Future of Libraries Workshops

Workshops were held to help train libraries to take an active, visible role in building sustainable and resilient communities. Coursework explored the importance of infusing the core value of sustainability into everything we do and demonstrated how librarians that lead using “sustainable thinking” fulfill their mission in new

and innovative ways, inspiring investment and building support for their libraries in the future.

“Sustainable Thinking” is a concept that aligns the core values of libraries with the “Triple Bottom Line” definition of sustainability: economic feasibility, environmental stewardship, and social equity.

This is a multi-year, scalable initiative between NJ and NY, with plans to involve Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region II in the future.

NJSL UX Boot Camp

NJSL held its UX Boot Camp, a program designed to instruct librarians on how to use design principles and processes to improve their public library websites. The principles and techniques learned in the boot camp will help them significantly reduce the cost of building a new website, redesigning an existing site, or improving an aspect of the current site.



From left: Instructor Stephen Millett (Technology Associate at Princeton Public Library), Andrea Levandowski (NJSL), and the UX Boot Camp graduating class.

EXCITE Transformation for Libraries

NJSL participated in a national project called “EXCITE Transformation for Libraries,” offered through a partnership with the Connecticut State Library and funded by an IMLS grant. EXCITE is an intensive team-based experiential learning program that teaches collaboration and innovation skills. The program was designed to respond to community input and demonstrated needs, lead to cultural change at libraries, and sustain project impact through extended training.

Summit for Public Library Directors

NJSL hosted a Public Library Directors conference, which provided an opportunity for experienced and new library directors to network and renew connections among their colleagues throughout the state. This one-day event featured two workshops focusing on the latest developments in Library Law and understanding and mapping community needs meant to enhance strategic planning, programming, and collection development activities.

Leap into Science Workshops

The NJ State Leadership Team from NJSL, NJ Makers Day, and the Newark Museum collaborated to offer Leap into Science Cohort Year 2 early literacy workshops for educators and staff from public and school libraries, afterschool organizations, and museums. More than 168 workshops were held around the state by those trained, who are referred to as educators, after receiving training through the program. Over 1,939 children and adults participated in these workshops.

The program was chosen as the NJ STEM Month 2019 STEM Collaboration of the Year, an honor highlighting the organizations that work together to provide outstanding STEM programming in their community and beyond.

Grow with Google

At the close of the year, the Grow with Google tour made a stop in New Jersey as part of an ongoing initiative to provide free training, tools, and resources at public libraries nationwide. Job seekers, small business owners, librarians, and nonprofit leaders gathered at the Long Branch Free Public Library for digital skills workshops and one-on-one coaching.

In the coming year, NJ libraries will have the opportunity to apply for a Libraries Lead with Digital Skills grant, an initiative of ALA and PLA, sponsored by Google, with the goal of ensuring that public libraries across the nation receive ongoing access to free tools and resources. These grants will help libraries to address the skills gap in their own communities through programming, outreach, and education.



Visiting Google presenters and coaches joined Long Branch Mayor John Pallone and New Jersey-local YouTube Creator Laura Vitale at the Long Branch event. State Librarian Mary Chute gave remarks, along with Tonya Garcia, Long Branch Free Public Library Director.



These services were made possible in part by the
Institute of Museum and Library Services.
WWW.IMLS.GOV



PO BOX 520 | 185 WEST STATE STREET | TRENTON NJ 08625-0520
TEL: 609-278-2640 | FAX: 609-278-2647 | 8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM, MON - FRI

WWW.NJSTATELIB.ORG    