



FY2025



ANNUAL REPORT

*covering the fiscal year
from July 2024 to June 2025*

LibraryLinkNJ, The New Jersey Library Cooperative, and its services are funded by the New Jersey State Library, which is responsible for the coordination, promotion, and funding of the New Jersey Library Network. Members join at no charge and pay no dues.

Welcome Message

Dear LibraryLinkNJ Community,

I'm delighted to present our FY2025 Annual Report. As you can see from the pages that follow, this year was marked by growth in our services and expanded collaboration with our members and partner organizations. Through a wide range of in-person and virtual programs, special initiatives, and ongoing services like the statewide delivery service, we continue to strengthen and support libraries across New Jersey—helping them remain vital, dynamic centers within their communities.

Looking ahead, we are energized by the direction LibraryLinkNJ is taking as we focus on high quality professional development, equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), information literacy, and emerging technologies. Through our activities in these areas, we continue to support library professionals in making their work more productive and impactful.



Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement as we continue to connect all New Jersey libraries to each other and the resources they need to serve their communities.

Sincerely,
Ralph S. Bingham III
Executive Director



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What is LibraryLinkNJ?

As The New Jersey Library Cooperative, LibraryLinkNJ supports a network of more than 2,400 member institutions—from public and academic libraries to school, medical, special, and institutional facilities, along with library-related organizations throughout the state. This annual overview showcases organizational growth, service improvements, and noteworthy accomplishments achieved during the fiscal year. With funding provided by the New Jersey State Library, we maintain accountability to both state leadership and our member community.



In August 2024, our Executive Board adopted new **Organizational Values Statements**. These values will guide our work and our professional relationships as we connect all New Jersey's libraries to each other and to the resources they need to serve their communities.

Collaboration and Connection to the Community

We believe in the collaborative power of the library community to share knowledge and connect with one another.

Inclusion and Belonging for All

We lead a culture of inclusion and belonging for New Jersey's library communities and the individuals they serve, giving a voice and equal opportunities to all.

Trust and Respect for One Another

We act with trust and respect, engaging in a culture that listens deeply to lift up all members.

Learning and Innovation that Promotes Individual and Community Growth

We provide innovative, high-quality programs and services that promote resource sharing, learning, and professional growth for all New Jersey libraries and library workers.

**Vision:**

Every New
Jersey Library -
Connected and
Thriving.

Mission:

We connect all New
Jersey's libraries to
each other and to the
resources they need to
serve their
communities.

Acknowledgment of the Executive Board

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the Executive Board, whose steady leadership and forward-thinking approach have propelled the organization through a dynamic year of advancement. We particularly thank Executive Board President Joan M. Serpico and her fellow board members for their extraordinary contributions and guidance.

LibraryLinkNJ ensures that all libraries, regardless of size or type, have access to essential resources and services.



Through a variety of programs, including hands-on training, webinars, and the delivery service that ensures timely access to the state's collective library resources, we support library professionals in making their work more productive and impactful.

Statewide Initiatives

In partnership with library organizations across the state, LLNJ continues to facilitate the NJ Libraries Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI-NJ) Initiative.

This collaborative effort brings together library professionals from all institution types to coordinate EDI-related programming and strategic projects throughout New Jersey's library community.



- Launched the EDI-NJ *Institutional EDI Assessment* with learning modules and implementation guides.
- Completed the *EDI Collective Impact Assessment* with 15 organizations, forming a statewide collaborative network.
- Conducted an *EDI Training Needs Assessment* with 118 respondents to develop a resource hub and DEIA toolkit for New Jersey libraries.
- Hosted *Culture Connection*, celebrating African American culture through keynotes and community exchange.

The initiative operates under the guidance of Selwa Shamy, Brett Bonfield (NJLA), Ali Cole (VALE), Leigh Clark (NJSL), Jen Nelson (State Librarian), and LLNJ Executive Director Ralph Bingham. Additional support comes from the New Jersey Association of School Libraries and the New Jersey Association of Library Assistants. Mi-Sun Lyu, LLNJ Director of Special Projects, manages the project, while Ozy Aloziem, Founder of Heal Inc LLC, provides expert EDI consultation.

Statewide Delivery

LibraryLinkNJ operates a statewide delivery service available to all member institutions, connecting the collective resources of the New Jersey Library Network and making them accessible to the public through 285 participating libraries.



Participating libraries shipped **855,794 packages**.



Administrative Operations Manager Jennifer Bruno and Member Services Specialist Carol Fishwick oversee delivery coordination, member communication, and supply management.



Following a competitive RFP process, TForce Logistics was awarded a new contract with flat-rate pricing and no fuel surcharges.

Member Support Forms:

LibraryLinkNJ members can now submit inquiries on our website via **Zoho Desk** for:

- **Billing Support:** For questions related to delivery services and invoicing.
- **Delivery Support:** For issues or requests regarding delivery services (e.g., library closures, delivery bins).
- **Website Support:** For user account assistance or updating library information (e.g., voting representative, primary contact). Links to these forms are available on the LLNJ website.



In-Person Opportunities

Tech Summit

Our technology programming continued to emphasize innovation and practical applications of emerging tools. In April 2025, the LibraryLinkNJ Technology Advisory Group (L-TAG) hosted *TechFest 2025* at Monroe Township Library, co-sponsored with the NJLA Emerging Technologies Section. Nearly 90 attendees from multitype libraries participated in table talks, hands-on demonstrations, and a keynote on generative AI and libraries.



Culture Connection

This EDI-NJ initiative brought together African American library staff and colleagues from diverse backgrounds to share food, stories, and culture. Hosted in March 2025 by the MentorNJ African American Meet-up Group at Monroe Township Library, the event featured keynote presentations on building cultural competence and developing inclusive leadership.



Super Library Supervisors

LLNJ's *Super Library Supervisor* training returned to an in-person format in October 2024 at Monroe Township Library. Twenty-nine new and novice supervisors attended four days of sessions covering leadership, management, and supervision fundamentals.



MentorNJ Mega Meetup

This annual gathering featured keynote speaker Loida Garcia-Febo presenting on Emotional Wellness for Library Workers. The event included in-person MentorNJ meetups and ample networking opportunities for library staff from across the state.



Show and Shares

Twice-yearly *Show & Share* events provide programming staff opportunities to view colleagues' craft projects and exchange unused materials. FY25 events included *Making History* in partnership with NJ Makers' Day and the League of Historical Societies, an Adult Craft *Show & Share*, and a Youth Craft *Show & Share*.



Virtual Opportunities

Under the leadership of Programming and Outreach Manager Darby Malvey with CE Team members Stephanie Sendaula, Jon Braun, and Mi-Sun Lyu, our professional development program continues to grow and thrive. In FY25, LibraryLinkNJ offered 230 opportunities for continuing education (CE) training for 5,716 NJ library workers.

That is an increase of 136 CE opportunities (+144%) and an additional 1,386 registrants (+32%) as compared to FY24.

Winter Virtual Meeting

In February 2025, library staff from across the state gathered virtually to celebrate the exceptional work of New Jersey's library community. The "Be Our Valentine" themed event invited representatives from member libraries to share what they love about their libraries, highlighting innovative projects, programs, and initiatives.

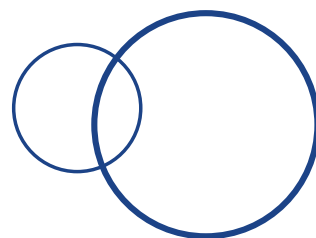
Skill-Sharing Discussions

Monthly virtual discussions allow library professionals to lead topical conversations and share expertise with colleagues. FY25 topics included developing comics and graphic novel collections, K-pop programming, managing university archives, and sustainable craft projects.

Fall Virtual Conference

LibraryLinkNJ presented its fourth annual one-day virtual conference in September 2024. The event featured 15 sessions exploring diverse inclusion topics, from cultivating neuroinclusion in academic libraries to inclusive social media practices.

More than 200 library professionals registered for this full-day learning opportunity.



Summer Book Bash

LibraryLinkNJ hosted its fourth *Summer Book Bash*, featuring publisher book buzzes and virtual author visits. This year's program included two author spotlight sessions that received enthusiastic feedback from attendees. Participants found the publisher presentations particularly valuable for collection development planning.

¿Cómo Se Dice?

¿Cómo Se Dice? Spanish Conversation Hour launched LibraryLinkNJ's first foreign-language learning series in partnership with Spanish-speaking library staff statewide. The six-session program focused on practical library interactions and guided conversation practice led by a native Spanish speaker.

New Member Info Sessions

In FY25, LibraryLinkNJ launched biannual *New Member Information Sessions* designed to welcome new library staff to the organization. These sessions provide an organizational overview, access to a downloadable *New Member Toolkit*, and dedicated time for questions and answers.

LearningSpace



During FY25, the LearningSpace gathered 37,682 views across 348 courses, including three original modules focused on information literacy, recorded webinars and skill-sharing discussions, as well as the Virtual Conference on Literacy. This is an increase of 15,173 views and 112 courses over FY24. The most popular courses focused on information literacy, customer service, and marketing initiatives. LLNJ recorded webinars and the Virtual Conference on Inclusion also drew in repeat viewings.

MentorNJ

127
meetups

1,093
attendees

The MentorNJ initiative facilitates networking and community-building experiences for library professionals throughout New Jersey. Through both virtual and in-person gatherings, MentorNJ has cultivated a vibrant network connecting staff from all library types. This network champions resource-sharing, collaboration, and a supportive atmosphere within New Jersey's library community.



The *MentorNJ Mentors' Directory* showcases over 100 library professionals willing to share their knowledge and experience with colleagues across New Jersey and Tennessee. This resource enables library staff to highlight their skills while providing those seeking guidance with low-pressure opportunities to build meaningful professional connections.

We extend our gratitude to the volunteers who energize the MentorNJ initiative! Our Task Force—composed of volunteers representing all library types—dedicates their time and expertise to make these programs and resources possible.

MentorNJ connects library workers across New Jersey through monthly virtual meetups, mentorship opportunities, and professional networking.



MentorNJ Mega Meetup: The annual *Mega Meetup* brought together library staff for a day of learning and connection. Keynote speaker Loida Garcia-Febo presented on *Emotional Wellness for Library Workers*, followed by in-person versions of popular MentorNJ meetups and structured networking time.

Throughout FY25, MentorNJ hosted **127** individual online meetups on monthly, twice-monthly, or bimonthly schedules. These gatherings addressed both professional topics and identity-based communities, creating spaces for library workers to connect around shared interests and experiences.

MentorNJ and TNLA Partnership:

The Tennessee Library Association partnership with our MentorNJ initiative, which began in FY24, continued to flourish in FY25. Our partners at TNLA co-sponsored the Mega Meet-up keynote address, with that presentation offered to both in-person New Jersey attendees and virtual Tennessee participants. FY25 also saw the addition of dedicated TNLA representatives to the MentorNJ Task Force. Our Tennessee Task Force reps provide valuable insight and perspective that helps us continue to provide an inclusive mentoring experience!

The logo for MentorTN, featuring the word "Mentor" in a grey sans-serif font and "TN" in a blue sans-serif font. A small blue lightbulb icon is positioned above the letter "T" in "TN".

MentorNJ's partnership with the Tennessee Library Association broadens our mentorship network and professional development reach beyond New Jersey's borders.

Statistics

Connecting New Jersey libraries to essential resources and each other remains central to our mission of supporting communities statewide. We delivered diverse programming designed to address the evolving needs and priorities of our membership. Our thoughtfully curated approach ensured balanced representation across topic areas, from technology and AI to mental health, skill-sharing, and EDI initiatives.



28,981

TOTAL VIEWS

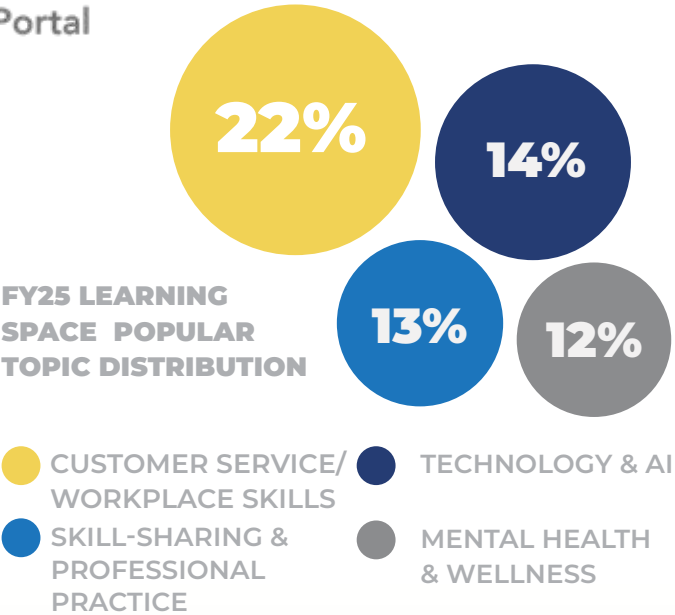
1,013

REGISTERED USERS

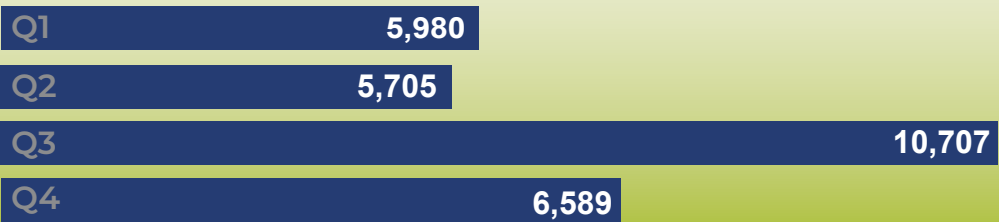
349

COURSES AVAILABLE

FY25 LEARNING SPACE POPULAR TOPIC DISTRIBUTION



LearningSpace Views



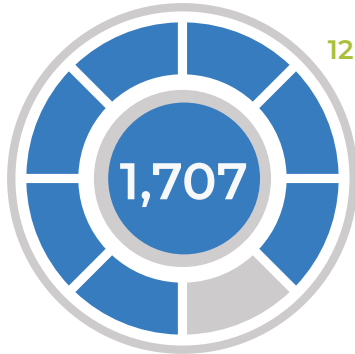
2,000 4,000 6,000 8,000 10,000 12,000

Membership

Our network of libraries spans all types, but how does our membership break down by category? Let's explore the numbers.



SPECIAL LIBRARIES



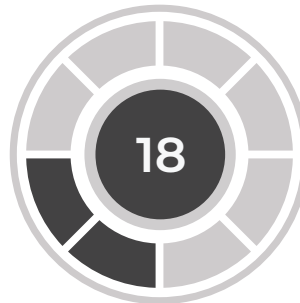
SCHOOL LIBRARIES
ACROSS 534
SCHOOL DISTRICTS



ACADEMIC LIBRARIES



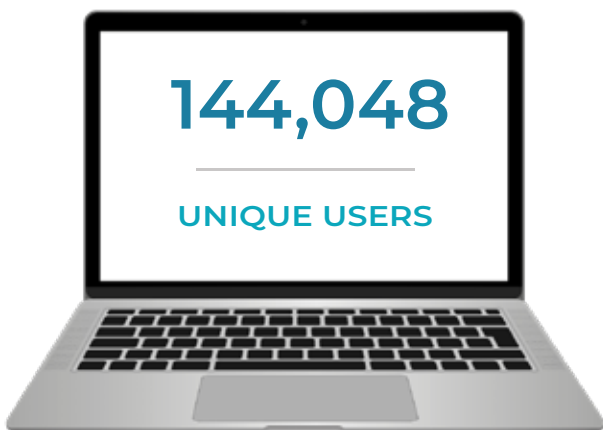
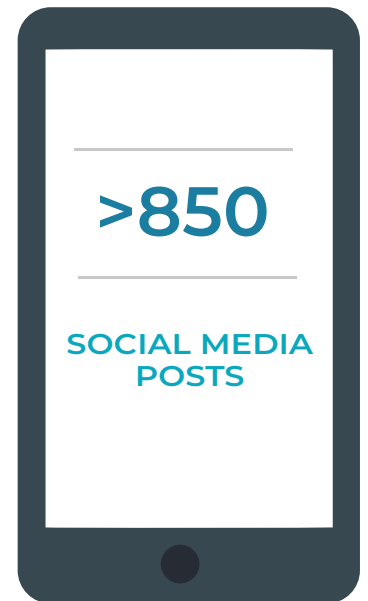
PUBLIC LIBRARIES
104 BRANCHES
12 COUNTY LIBRARIES



LIBRARY AGENCIES
INCLUDING RUTGERS

LibraryLinkNJ

LibraryLinkNJ shared over 850 social media posts throughout the year, spotlighting upcoming events, LearningSpace additions, MentorNJ meetups, and other news!



Between July 2024 and June 2025, our website received **144,048 unique users**, with an average of **4.76 page views**. By June 2025, we had **5,858 active user accounts** on our website.

LibraryLinkNJ gained over 350 followers across all social media platforms in FY25, totalling over 4,000 followers tuning in for posts and updates!



Facebook 1,760 followers



Instagram 1,675 followers



LinkedIn 589 followers

AI Ambassadors

In FY25, LibraryLinkNJ's *AI Ambassadors* initiative transitioned from training to widespread impact and recognition. The program, led by Online Learning & Digital Content Specialist Jon Braun in collaboration with the Technology Advisory Group (L-TAG), focused on extending the reach of AI knowledge through presentations, webinars, and direct library support. This shift positioned the initiative as a national model for helping library staff integrate artificial intelligence tools into their work.



Training and Engagement

The *AI Ambassadors* program gained national recognition in FY25 through collaborative presentations and professional conferences. Key highlights include:

National Recognition: *AI Ambassadors* presented to the State Libraries and AI Technologies (SLAAIT) working group, sharing program outcomes and best practices. The initiative was featured in *Library Journal*, bringing attention to New Jersey's innovative approach.

Conference Presentations: Online Learning & Digital Content Specialist Jon Braun showcased the *AI Ambassadors* model at the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) Conference in Chicago, demonstrating the program's impact on the NJ library community.

Webinar Series: L-TAG coordinated eight AI- and tech focused webinars throughout FY25, covering topics such as AI-driven community engagement, practical strategies for everyday AI use, cybersecurity basics, and information literacy in the AI age.

Partnerships

Collaborative relationships with organizations including the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) and the New Jersey State Library (NJSL) have deepened throughout FY25, leading to joint initiatives that strengthen resource-sharing and expand professional development opportunities statewide.

Professional Development Alliance: Through participation in the Professional Development Alliance—an initiative of the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC)—LibraryLinkNJ provides members with access to diverse, no-cost virtual professional development opportunities from consortia nationwide.



This involvement extends our programming capacity while establishing LibraryLinkNJ's reputation as a provider of high-quality professional development for multitype libraries.

Grant-Funded Collaborations: Partnerships with the New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Department of Education have advanced the ongoing IMLS-funded Information Literacy project; *Teaching Information Literacy*. Additional collaborations with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights and the New Jersey Office of Innovation have enabled LibraryLinkNJ to offer timely and relevant webinar programming on critical topics.



Academic/Conference Partnerships: Statewide Conference Partnerships: LibraryLinkNJ served as a Silver Level Strategic Partner for the NJLA Annual Conference and sponsored the New Jersey Academic Libraries Conference. These partnerships strengthen connections across library types and provide platforms for sharing innovations and best practices.

FY25 Executive Board

LibraryLinkNJ operates as a member-based organization under New Jersey State Library regulations, with governance provided by a 15-member Executive Board elected by voting representatives from member libraries. These representatives participate in decisions regarding board vacancies, the strategic plan, annual programming, and budget approval at the annual membership meeting.

Allan Kleiman, Member-at-Large
Director, Edison Township Public Library

Amy Behr-Shields, Secretary, Member-at-Large
Director, Summit Free Public Library

Amy Steinbauer, Member-at-Large
Director, Berkeley Heights Public Library

Cory Fleming, Assistant Treasurer, Member-at-Large
Director, Paterson Free Public Library

Donna Y. Butler, School Library Representative
School Library and Media Specialist, W.R. James, Sr. Elementary School

Helen-Ann Brown Epstein, Special Library Representative
Informationist, Virtua Health Sciences Library

Irene Langlois, Vice President/President Elect, Public Library Representative
InteriHead of Outreach Services, Maplewood Memorial Library

Joan Serpico, President, Member-at-Large
Director, Moorestown Library

John Foglia, Academic Library Representative
Manager, Information Commons and Library Systems, Brookdale Community College

Luca Manna, Member-at-Large
Executive Director, PALS Plus

Mary Fran Daley, Treasurer, Member-at-Large
Executive Director, Bernardsville Public Library

Michelle Sutton-Kerchner, Lay Representative
President, Signatures and Folios Publishing Services

Ranjna Das, Member-at-Large
Director, Burlington County Library System

Vickie Volyn, Lay Representative

There was a **vacant board position** at year's end.

FY25 LibraryLinkNJ Staff



Ralph S. Bingham III, Executive Director
Jon Braun, Online Learning & Digital Content Specialist
Jennifer Bruno, Administrative Operations Manager
Carol Fishwick, Member Services Specialist
Mi-Sun Lyu, Director of Special Projects
Darby Malvey, Programming & Outreach Manager
Stephanie Sendula, Programming & Outreach Specialist
Megan Woods, Communications & Outreach Assistant

Connect With Us



LibraryLinkNJ maintains connections with our membership through multiple platforms to keep you informed and engaged! Stay current with our **weekly newsletter, monthly updates, and specialized AI-focused communications**. Join conversations through our **mailing list**, and connect with us on **Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn** by searching for **LibraryLinkNJ**.



Collaborate directly with colleagues through our **Google Group Mailing List**, where you can pose questions, share resources, and receive responses from the LLNJ community. Explore employment opportunities through our **Job Posting Form**, a streamlined way to discover or share openings from libraries of all types throughout the state.

Sign up for our online newsletters when you visit our website:

librarylinknj.org

Do you have a question or need assistance?

732-752-7720



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Darby Malvey	ext. 105	darby@librarylinknj.org
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LibraryLinkNJ

THE NEW JERSEY LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

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Get Connected

visit librarylinknj.org to learn more

