

State Librarian's Update

December 2022

Just a reminder that the proposed update to Librarian Certification is available for review and public comment. The proposed new rules are a re-adoption of the rules that expired in May 2022. The [proposal and instructions for comment](#) are available until **January 6, 2023**. The New Jersey State Library (NJSL) welcomes your feedback.

NJSL has a number of emerging projects that will start to unfold in January 2023, and we're looking forward to sharing them with you. From traditional favorites like NJLibsGrowBiz to the new digitization projects and Social Work Informed Library Services project, we're adapting our activities to reflect how libraries and communities have changed since the pandemic started. We'll keep you posted as projects get underway and there is an opportunity for you to take advantage of them.

Featuring Jersey Clicks, NJSL's marketing team had the chance to exhibit and speak at the recent New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) conference. It was delightful to meet so many people and talk about our featured products.

And I'd be remiss without giving a big congratulations to NJASL on the recent passage of the information literacy standards bill. Its passage was a model for how to navigate the legislative process and keep up the work despite the snail's pace of progress at times. New Jersey's students will benefit for years to come with the ability to be a critical consumer and producer of information. Congratulations!

Jen Nelson
State Librarian

Stay Informed:

What's Happening at NJSL

NJSL staff did some serious crowd sourcing to transcribe index records from the cases within the Errors & Appeals collection of court decisions from 1844-1947. The library will begin digitizing this unique collection in 2023. During the week of Nov 28th several thousands of entries were transcribed into pre-formatted spreadsheets and represent the metadata backbone of this digitization project. In addition, the State Library is entering into an agreement with Backstage Library Works to digitize a large portion of this collection.

The State Library Information Center (SLIC) said goodbye to Cindy Warrick who retired on Nov 30th. Cindy has been instrumental in supporting SLIC's outreach efforts through a bi-weekly newsletter to library card holders as well as coordinating author talks hosted by the library over many years.

The Talking Book and Braille Center circulated 32,627 items in November; 7,241 were downloaded by patrons through the Braille and Audio Download (BARD) system. Sixty Outreach activities led to 74 new patrons. The Library Equal Access Program (LEAP) is scheduling classes for March 2023. With its new Braille On Demand service, the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled now circulates up to 5 Braille titles to patrons each month; patrons are able to keep the Braille copies.

You're Invited:

[Webinar: Strangely Contaminated: The Loyalists of New Jersey](#)

On December 28th from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, join Andrew Dauphinee, Instruction and Outreach Librarian at the NJSL, as he sheds light on the forgotten New Jersey Loyalists during the American Revolution, including their military accomplishments and failures.

[Patriots Week Webinar: The Revolutionary World of a Free Black Man: Jacob Francis 1754-1836](#)

On December 29th from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, celebrate Trenton's Patriots Week by attending this webinar offered by historian William 'Larry' Kidder, in which he shares the story of free Black man Jacob Francis who hailed from Amwell Township, New Jersey and served in the Continental Army.

NJSL Social Work Informed Library Services in New Jersey Information Session

The State Library has developed a Social Work Informed Library Services in New Jersey (SWILIBS-NJ) Project that will promote connection and collaboration between social work student interns and public libraries in New Jersey. Come join us on Friday, December 16th, 10-11am, to learn more about the project, training opportunities and how you can participate! [Register here](#) to attend.

For inquiries, please contact Mimi Lee, Director of Literacy and Learning at mlee@njstatelib.org.

NJLibsGrowBiz webinar: Starting a Business in New Jersey

Join this NJLibsGrowBiz webinar on Wednesday, January 11th, 10-11am, to learn from the Division of Taxation about the business registration process, sales & use tax, and more! You will find out where to find resources and information to help new and existing business owners. There will also be plenty of time for your questions and discussion with other library staff. [Register here](#).

Communicating about Climate Change Webinar

On January 25th at 2pm, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension will provide an overview of climate change communication for the library field. Dr. David Robinson, Distinguished Professor and NJ State Climatologist, will discuss the causes and mechanisms of climate change, how it has already affected NJ, and likely additional short- and long-term impacts. Dr. Cara Cuite, an Assistant Extension Specialist with expertise in risk communication, will discuss best practices for communication with the public about climate change with special considerations for librarians. [Register here](#).

Get Involved:

Library Director Training Survey

The New Jersey State Library and LibraryLinkNJ are exploring hosting an in-person, one-day current director's training event in 2023. We're seeking your help to make sure that we plan relevant and interesting topics and speakers. If you are a New Jersey library director, please take a few moments to [fill out the survey](#)! Responses will be accepted through January 1, 2023.

Sign up for the Labor and Literacy Library Program

The Labor & Literacy Library program builds on the successful work developed through the NJSL+ Partners Literacy project, a collaborative effort between the New Jersey State Library and Plainfield Public Library, by supporting NJ libraries as they assist patrons seeking digital literacy skills, Adult Basic Education, English Language Learning, and job search assistance. This program will streamline service and procedure with out of the box deployment, allowing for local programs to focus on what they do best: serving patrons. The program's ethos is 'Central Support with Local Control,' with materials, procedures, support, and professional development opportunities to help you provide the on-the-ground general and digital literacy and workforce skills services that your patrons need — all with less overhead and less administrative workload. More information is available here: <https://www.njstatelib.org/laborandliteracy>.

Connecting people with information through libraries