

NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY UPDATE – December 2021

We're pleased that the appropriations bill for the recommended Library Construction Bond Act Spring 2021 solicitation is working its way through the legislature. A total of 116 applications for funding were submitted, totaling \$117 million in requests. With \$37.5 million available, 36 (10 Large Projects and 26 Smaller Projects) were recommended for funding.

As 2021 comes to a close, putting another year of dealing with the impact of COVID behind us, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with all of you and appreciate the warm welcome you've extended as I am getting my sea legs in New Jersey. I've appreciated being able to visit libraries and even attend a conference. I am hopeful to do more visits in 2022. Please invite me to your library! I'd love to see you, your staff and your library.

With my warmest regards to you for a healthy and safe holiday and new year. I look forward to the work we can do together for New Jerseyans in 2022.

Jen Nelson, State Librarian
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State Library Information Center

The New Jersey COVID Storytelling Project, *Community Conversations: Pandemic Perspectives*, a collaboration between the NJ YMCA State Alliance, the NJ Department of Health, and Healthy NJ 2030 to capture the accounts of New Jersey residents during COVID-19, was showcased at the New Jersey YMCA State Alliance Conference on December 9th. The New Jersey State Library received, prepared and archived selected interviews, focus groups, and creative works to ensure continued accessibility when people research and study the impact of COVID on New Jersey in the future. <https://dspace.njstatelib.org/handle/10929/70519>

A digitization and preservation inventory and assessment of our Riparian Commission report series was completed.

A crawl of 20 New Jersey state department and agency websites was run in November which resulted in 225GB of saved documents.

A presentation on State Library resources and services for Thomas Edison State University Business Administration doctoral students was held on December 16.

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Upcoming Virtual Classes and Programs:

NJSL Presents classes and programs are open to all, but registration is limited. See the NJSL Events calendar for details about offerings. <https://www.njstatelib.org/events>

Patriots Week talk: *George Washington, New Jersey and the Revolutionary War*, December 28, 12-1 pm.

Indirect Evidence to Establish Genealogical Proof, January 4, 2022, 12-1 pm.

Hardenbergh Hikes through History, January 11, 2022, 12-1 pm.

Talking Book and Braille Center

TBBC serves patrons with multiple books on a single cartridge, a process that is working smoothly. In November, 25,962 books were mailed to patrons on just 3,706 digital cartridges. Additionally, patrons and staffs in NJ public libraries downloaded 6,077 titles from BARD.

We are also tracking books in Braille for reading on an electric Braille reader which New Jersey is piloting for the Library of Congress. In November, 390 volumes in Braille were download by patrons from the BARD (Braille and Audio Download) website of the Library of Congress. Additionally, for those patrons who cannot download, TBBC sent out 78 volumes of 12 Braille titles on only 5 digital cartridges.

In November there were 48 outreach opportunities, 20 were social media posts. The other 28 were meeting and training opportunities. Two proposals for program for NJLA's annual meeting were also submitted. They are "55 years of TBBC Services: From Recorded Players to Mobile Apps" and "Increasing Accessibility and Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community."

Lifelong Learning

New Jersey State Library Recruiting AmeriCorps VISTA Member for Digital Literacy Program

The New Jersey State Library is seeking a Literacy Leader to work with our team on a multi-faceted statewide literacy program. This exciting opportunity is offered through AmeriCorps VISTA Literacy Leadership's new Digital Literacy Track.

The VISTA member will join the NJSL+Partners Literacy Project team to assess the effectiveness of this statewide literacy program in an effort to provide digital literacy through two different program models. These include a Hub and Spoke concept (model 1) for providing basic and advanced digital literacy at public libraries, and an Access Navigator model (model 2) to provide basic digital literacy through rotating staff at public libraries. A fulsome evaluation conducted by a VISTA member will allow the model(s) to be adapted with an eye specifically toward improved effectiveness. The overarching result will be to improve program

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implementation of both models to best serve people in poverty and position people in poverty for workforce success

This yearlong position comes some great benefits:

- Personal and professional development.
- Training and support throughout service.
- An Education Award or a cash stipend at the end of service:
- Biweekly living stipend
- Opportunity to explore digital equity, education, nonprofit work, Adult Basic Education, social work or youth development as a career.

The application is a multi-step process. The deadline to apply is January 17, 2022, with start date (Service Training) of February 14, 2022.

- Send your resume to Mimi Lee, Co-Coordinator of the NJSL+ Partners Literacy Project, at mlee@njstatelib.org
- To complete the official application visit: <https://www.literacymn.org/literacyleaderpositions>

Please see flyer for more information:

<https://www.njstatelib.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/LL-Digital-Track-Flyer-2021-Final.pdf>

NJLibsGrowBiz

A NJLibsGrowBiz Virtual Discussion was held on December 16, 2021. NJLibsGrowBiz is a group of library staff members who meet to discuss resources, services, and programs for business owners, entrepreneurs, and jobseekers in their communities. Guest speakers included E.J. Kalafarski and Jessica Lax, Innovation Fellows with the Office of Innovation, State of New Jersey. Attendees learned how the New Jersey Office of Innovation supports businesses and entrepreneurs with resources that can be valuable sources of information for libraries serving individuals looking to start or grow their businesses.

The NJ Office of Innovation recently launched the Business.NJ.gov Navigator project. It provides entrepreneurs with a free, personalized step-by-step guide to start a business in New Jersey. They explained how the product works so that librarians can share it as a resource for any small business. The office is also looking for businesses to test and give feedback on the product.

Naloxone Training

Free Naloxone Training will be provided by Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services on January 11, 2022, 11:00am – 12:30pm.

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Join us for a free, virtual training about overdose death prevention strategies including the appropriate administration of naloxone and rescue breathing. The NJ State Library is coordinating this informational program in an effort to facilitate discussion around this topic. The goal is to encourage the sharing and gathering of ideas and input for possible future programming. Attendees are each eligible to receive one naloxone kit that will be mailed to them via UPS after the session. The decision to receive a naloxone kit is solely at the discretion of the individual library.

Please note that the session will NOT be recorded. Link to register: <https://freenaloxonetraining.eventbrite.com>

If you cannot attend this event, but would like to be notified about future related events, please contact Andrea Levandowski, alevandowski@njstatelib.org.

NJHealthConnect @ Your Library

The response to this program has been phenomenal. Thus far, 132 libraries have applied for and requested more than 350 iPads out of a total of 450 iPads available. To support all of the libraries interested in participating in the project, NJSL has allocated additional funds. This program involves the use of iPads which have been preloaded with apps of major hospital systems in all regions of the state, and links to health resources like MedlinePlus via Zoom and Google Meet. It is a partnership with the East Brunswick Public Library's Just for the Health of It.

Library Law for Municipal Officials

Michele Stricker and Bob Keith presented a virtual session on Library Law at the League of Municipalities conference for municipal CFOs. The session lasted just shy of 2 hours, with 68 attendees. Due to the terrific response and number of questions asked, they are now putting together a Q & A webinar for attendees. If the program continues to receive interest, we will consider repeating it for mayors and CFOs in 2022.

NJSL+Partners Project

Both of these projects have launched! A Hub & Spoke in-person meeting for all the new hires, guides & instructors, was held on December 9, 2021, at the Plainfield Public Library to learn about the labor and literacy lab services. Another virtual session was held on December 16, 2021 to continue to learn about the literacy lab and support services which will be provided.

Northstar Digital Literacy

Training Part 1 took place in early December for Access Navigators along with the Hub & Spoke libraries, and other statewide participants. The Northstar online modules offer training in basic computer skills, which augments the higher level of trainings and certifications of the PPL model.

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CSLP Packets of Information and Incentives for 2022 Provided for Free to All Public Libraries

Sharon Rawlins worked with the statewide summer reading committee to send volunteers from the committee printed information that they could compile into packets to send to all the public libraries through the statewide delivery service. The packets included a cover letter, the access code for the online manual, and printed CSLP incentives catalogs for the 2022 Summer Reading Program. An order has been placed for all the incentives that each public library receives yearly for the 2022 CSLP Summer Reading Program courtesy of the State Library through Library Network funds. The incentives, customized with the NJ State Library logo and the NJ Library Network statement, include a banner, children's, teen and adult posters and children's, teen and adult packets of bookmarks.

Transforming Teen Services: A Train-the-Trainer Approach Initiative

Sharon Rawlins virtually attended the all-day wrap up Summit for the Transforming Teen Services: A Train the Train Approach (T3) Initiative sponsored by YALSA that she and other state leaders have been a part of over the past several years. The Summit was held on November 4.

NJCAR

Michele Stricker attended an NJCAR meeting to begin planning two programs to be offered in Spring 2022: How to Write a Disaster Plan for Cultural Institutions, and The Art of Mass Gatherings in partnership with LYRASIS.

The Office of New Americans Information Session for NJ Libraries

In efforts to advance integration and welcoming new Americans in New Jersey, the Office of New Americans (ONA) was established in early 2020 and has been working to build trust, improve access to social services, employment services, and legal assistance for immigrants. NJSL facilitated an information session with the library community on Wednesday, November 16, 2021, to introduce ONA and its programs and initiatives targeting new American populations, including those who speak languages other than English. 52 people attended.

Access Navigator Program

Managed by NJLA, the program had a kickoff event on November 10, 2021. The kickoff included members from the NJLA Access Navigators team, NJLA Access Services Taskforce, and Access Navigator libraries. After introductions and an explanation of the project, the Access Navigators met with their assigned libraries during breakout groups.

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Library Support Services

As libraries re-open more hours to the public and statewide delivery resumed, JerseyCAT requests have been increasing, although not yet reaching pre-pandemic levels.

The annual state program report to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which this year includes both Library Services and Technology Act funds and CARES Act grants, was submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services prior to the December 31, 2021 deadline.

Deputy State Librarian Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer is continuing to work with consultants in the evaluation of the State Library's current LSTA five-year plan.

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