2026 New Jersey Academic Libraries Conference - LibraryLinkNJ Update

On behalf of LibraryLinkNJ, its Executive Board and staff, I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this year's conference and report on the recent activities of LibraryLinkNJ.

Collaboration and Partnerships

In September, we announced the launch of our new on-demand training series, **Information Literacy: A Guide for New Jersey Communities**. These on-demand learning modules are a small piece of a larger effort to prepare not only New Jersey's libraries, but its communities, for the upcoming Information Literacy Student Learning Standards, which will require comprehensive information literacy education in all of the Garden State's K-12 public schools. Our goal with these modules - part of the IMLS-funded Teaching Information Literacy project spearheaded by the New Jersey State Library - is to provide a resource that can be used to help all interested parties gain a preliminary understanding of what information literacy is and why it's so important. In December, we released the fourth of the five-part series of modules with the final module being released later this month.

- The modules are available in the LibraryLinkNJ Learning Space: https://my.nicheacademy.com/infolitguidenj

Counting on School Librarians: Help Map School Library Staffing Across NJ

Do you know how a New Jersey school library is staffed? We want to hear from you! LibraryLinkNJ is partnering with statewide library organizations to crowd-source accurate information about K–12 school library staffing across the Garden State. This anonymous data will help identify where additional library support is needed most. If you have confirmed information about staffing at a NJ school library, please take a few minutes to share it using our short form. One form per school, and no guessing--only what you know to be true.

- Submissions will be accepted via this form through February 28, 2026
- All responses are anonymous and used for informational purposes only

EDI-NJ has launched the **EDI-NJ Institutional Assessment Pilot Project**, a statewide initiative helping New Jersey libraries deepen their equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) practices through structured assessment, reflection, and action. We invited libraries across New Jersey to apply for participation at no cost in a collaborative pilot designed to test, refine, and apply the EDI-NJ Institutional Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Assessment Tool.

The following eight libraries applied before the December 12 deadline and were approved for inclusion in the pilot:

- Burlington County Library System
- Hunterdon County Library System
- Jennings Library at Caldwell University
- John P. Faber School (Middlesex Co.)
- Moorestown Library
- New Brunswick Free Public Library
- Piscataway Public Library
- University Library at Rider University

Participating libraries will:

- Deepen their organizational understanding of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI).
- Receive individualized consulting (1-hour onboarding debrief and 4 hours of consulting) with an EDI consultant to interpret results and create actionable plans.
- Contribute valuable feedback that will inform the statewide EDI Framework for NJ Libraries and shape future implementation.

Reminder: EDI-NJ Institutional EDI Assessment for New Jersey Libraries
Please help us continue to get the word out about this comprehensive tool designed to support a library's journey toward creating a more equitable, inclusive, and community-centered institution. In addition to the assessment, we are excited to introduce the Learning Module Series that accompanies the tool. This series is designed to guide a library through each step of the process, helping an organization reflect on its current state, understand community needs, and identify actionable areas for growth. The Assessment Tool and related resources are available on our website.

Resource Sharing and Delivery
- Our new agreement with TForce Logistics went into effect on July 1, 2025.
- Currently, the Statewide Delivery Service provides delivery for **285 library administrative entities**:
    - Public Libraries - 194
    - K-12 Schools - 39
    - Academic Libraries - 45
    - Other Library-Related Agencies - 7

Materials Acquisition Resources
We have partnered with NJLA to support New Jersey libraries in navigating the transition in materials acquisition following Baker & Taylor's announcement in October that they are ceasing operations. We continue to update our webpage featuring the latest updates compiled by NJLA, along with demo sessions from various distributors that we are co-sponsoring. You can visit our Materials Acquisition Resources Page for more information.

Professional Development

We were pleased to be able to host our **5th annual virtual one-day conference** in September. This year's conference theme was *Connection*, and we were thrilled to host 14 live presentation sessions on a wide range of Inclusion topics. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about a wide range of successful programs and initiatives from libraries of all types. If you weren't able to join us live, recordings of most of the day's presentations are available for viewing in our **LearningSpace**.

We continue to facilitate **Skill-Sharing Conversations** which are one-hour, virtual conversations on relevant library topics. Each conversation follows an agenda and is moderated by one of our talented colleagues, providing a great opportunity for the NJ Library community to learn and grow together. See our website for a list of upcoming conversations.

We continue to add to the offerings on our ***LearningSpace* On-Demand Training Portal**. Powered by Niche Academy, the *LearningSpace* is a place for New Jersey library workers to access an array of continuing education options, including recordings of our live webinars and virtual conferences, and original, asynchronous professional development and training options.

Join us for one or more of **MentorNJ online Meetups**, where library staff from around the state gather to share successes, ask questions, seek advice, or simply take some time to network with peers. Information about all of our meetups can be found on our ***Events Calendar***

Looking Forward

Call for Participants! LLNJ Winter Meeting 2026
The LibraryLinkNJ team is gearing up for our annual Winter Meeting on February 10th. This virtual event will bring library staff from across the state together to highlight the amazing work happening in New Jersey's libraries. We are looking for presenters to share their success stories with the library community. Whether it's a groundbreaking project, a program that made an impact, or even a creative solution to a challenge, this is your chance to showcase what's been working in your library. No achievement is too big or small to share! If you have something you're proud of and want to inspire others, we'd love for you to present at this year's meeting. If you or someone from your library is interested in presenting, please use our sign-up form.

The second round of the **AI Ambassadors** training series will be held in Spring 2026. Three virtual sessions will be hosted on Zoom with one full-day, in-person event wrapping up the series at the Piscataway Public Library. See the L-TAG update below for more details.

LibraryLinkNJ members receive special group rates for the ***Computers in Libraries 2026 Conference***, held March 17–19 in Arlington, VA. Enjoy discounted pricing of $399 for the 3-day conference and $699 for the Gold Pass through February 13 (higher rates apply after). More details can be found at: https://computersinlibraries.infotoday.com/2026/default.aspx

Check out our **January Newsletter** for additional announcements about upcoming events, meetups and other other professional development opportunities along with partner updates and articles featuring the work of our awesome member libraries and NJ library workers.

Finally, a reminder that the best way to **stay connected with us** and informed about upcoming events is to sign up for our newsletter at https://librarylinknj.org/about-us/news. We publish a newsletter at the beginning of each month and an *On Our Calendar* update every Friday with upcoming events for the following week.

Best regards,

Ralph S. Bingham III
Executive Director, LibraryLinkNJ
January 10, 2025