**NJLA County Libraries Section Meeting**

**Wednesday March 21, 2024, 10:30am-11:30am**

In-person/Zoom hybrid meeting at the Louise Childs Branch of the Sussex County Library System

1. **In attendance:** Christina Nemphos (Burlington County Library System/BCLS), Cassie Collucci (Somerset County Library System/SCLSNJ), Ellen Callanan (Sussex County Library System/SCLS), Heather Lubchansky (SCLS), Natalie Webber (SCLS), Jessica Osolin (SCLS), Rich Loomis (SCLSNJ), Will Porter (SCLS/NJLA Liaison), Julie Knapp (SCLS), Susan Waltner (SCLS), Rosie Wagner (BCLS), Phil Berg (MAIN Library Alliance), Jill Butcher (Warren County Library), Christine Clear (SCLS), Kate Jaggers (Hunterdon County Library), Susan Deleo (Riverton Library/BCLS), Sara Branagan (SCLS)
2. **Conference Session Proposal Updates** *(all accepted and scheduled!)*

* **Blazing Your Own Trail: Diverse Career Paths in County Libraries** (previously called *How Did They Get There? Diverse Career Paths in County Libraries*): coordinator Ellen Callanan (SCLS), moderator Will Porter (SCLS), panelists Sara Branagan (SCLS), Shazia Zaman (BCLS), Jen Schureman Brenner (Gloucester County Library System), and Jen Amorese-Berrios (SCLSNJ): **Thursday May 30, 11-11:50 am**
* Lifelong Learning: Teaming up against the Digital Divide: incorporated into the pre-conference session “**Begin, Build, or Broaden Your Library’s Digital Services**” which focuses on starting or growing digital literacy initiatives. Presenters are Rosie Wagner (BCLS), Scott Kuchinsky (Plainfield Public Library), and Andrea Lewandowski (New Jersey State Library): **Wednesday May 29, 2-5 pm**
* **Breaking down the Digital Divide: Device Lending Programs for Libraries** (*County Libraries listed as co-sponsor):* Presenters are Heather Lubchansky (SCLS), Tanya Finney-Estrada (Pennsauken Public Library), and Amelia Rodriguez (Mercer County Library System): **Friday May 31, 9-9:50 am**
* **County Luncheon**: will be similar to last year—directors will receive award nomination forms soon: **Friday May 31, 12:30-2 pm**

1. **Executive Board Update** (*Will Porter, NJLA Executive Board Liaison):*

* NJLA is working on a strategic plan, and has employed consultants to help guide this initiative
* NJLA 2024-25 Election results: Vice-President/President-Elect John Wallace; 2nd VP Heather Kristian; Secretary Rosie Wagner; Treasurer Allen Kleiman; Members-at-large Eleni Glykis (unexpired term), Mary Jean Riou, Tanya Finney Estrada, Corey Fleming. Congratulations!

1. **County Libraries Section Elections** (*Cassie Collucci,* *Vice-President County Libraries Section):*

* Three positions open for 2024-2025:
  + President, one-year term
  + Vice President, one-year term
  + Secretary/Treasurer, two-year term
* Inform Cassie of interest in running for a position before April 5
* Terms for President and Vice-President run from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025; Secretary’s term runs from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026
* Post-election, any County library which does not have a staff member elected to serve in one of the positions above is invited to appoint a “Member-at-Large” from its library to serve on the board for the coming year

1. **Upcoming Meetings**
   1. **Thurs. April 18, 2024, 10:30 a.m.: Digital Divide***(Virtual):* need volunteers for mini-presentations (or someone with a larger presentation)
   2. **Thurs. May 16, 2024, 10:30 a.m.:** **Employee Engagement** *(in-person/Zoom hybrid at Burlington County Library System*
   3. Possible June meeting: TBD
2. **AI in Libraries Presentation (***LibraryLinkNJ AI Ambassadors Heather Lubchansky from SCLS and Rich Loomis from SCLSNJ):*

* Main topics:
  + - What is AI?
    - How AI can be used in library work
    - Ethics of AI
  + Additional information:
    - AI doesn’t understand content, so may hallucinate *(i.e., make up information, such as citations or facts which aren’t real)*—uses algorithms which detect patterns and proximity of words
    - Chat GTP will give different responses to the same query
    - Soros AI is a leading image generator *(see YouTube video of Will Smith eating spaghetti)*
    - Things to look for to identify AI-generated images: facial features, hands *(AI is not good at creating these so may have extra or missing digits, facial features that are “off”)*
    - Cannot currently copyright AI creations
    - Currently no safety oversight for AI tools
    - Limitations of AI detectors: the more ChatGPT creations are tweaked by the user, the harder it is for AI detectors to identify as being AI-generated
  + What’s the catch with using AI?
    - Human AI trainers aren’t well paid—ethical considerations
    - Cheating as a consideration for use in education
    - AI may cause Job loss/shift to different jobs
    - Loss of language/research skills by those using/relying on AI for content creation
    - Copyright violations (especially with image generation),
    - The “AI Singularity” (the day that the robots start thinking) and the three schools of thought:
      * It’s already happened
      * It will be happening in the next 10-15 years
      * There is not enough computing power so it will never happen
* Should you use AI at work?
  + - State of NJ has guidelines for State Government: [Using Generative AI in New Jersey State Government | Office of Innovation, State of New Jersey (nj.gov)](https://innovation.nj.gov/skills/ai/) and a video on creating content [Generative AI Explainer (vimeo.com)](https://vimeo.com/872999668/724ab4daef)
  + Copies of Heather’s presentation slides: [AI for Library Staff - NJLA presentation.pdf](file:///C:\Users\MLec\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\O35RQJQM\AI%20for%20Library%20Staff%20-%20NJLA%20presentation.pdf)

1. **Questions/Other:** none

**Next Meeting: Thursday April 18, 10:30 via Zoom**

**Zoom Link**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86221340835?pwd=MmlGak1CVVd3UWFDWkRZaVF3enFNdz09>  
  
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