

SOUTHEASTERN NEWS

December 2025

Volume 20, Issue 12

As we wrap up this year, our big news is that we have a complete data report about Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley to share with you. Support for this project, titled *Hudson Valley Connected*, was provided by New York State's ConnectALL Digital Equity Technical Assistance Program and funded by the New York State Executive Budget. The project was awarded in January 2025 to Southeastern NY Library Resources Council and managed by the Digital Equity Research Center at the Metropolitan New York Library Council. Please see the story below for more information

Aside from that, we have other pieces of news and information for you this month:

- Ask the Lawyer
- Employment Opportunities
- SEAL Newsletter
- NYLA Developing Leaders
- Computers in Libraries Conference
- Professional Development
- Advocacy Day - save the date!

Ask the Lawyer

The council retains an attorney to offer Southeastern and its members timely input on human resources, intellectual property, digital rights management, vendor contracts, First Amendment, civil rights, employment law, and other legal issues that can impact library operations.

There are some new FAQs on the website from November:

- [Fixing Municipal Library Trustee Term "Drift"](#)
- [Dealing with Demands to Preserve Evidence](#)

In addition to the recently asked questions, we keep an archive of past Ask The Lawyer Recordings on our website. These include popular webinars such as:

- The Ultimate AI Policy for Your (Public, Academic, Museum, etc.) Library (September 11, 2025)
- Accommodations in the Library - Employee Edition (December 5, 2024)
- Unlocking the Mysteries of Directors & Officers' Insurance (November 22, 2024)
- Know The Path, Avoid The Pitfalls: Arranging Contracts For E-Resources (March 7, 2024)

[Please have a look at our resources page](#) for a full list of recordings, links, and related materials.



Got a question for the lawyer?

[Ask it here.](#)

Please keep in mind: the "Ask the Lawyer" service is not legal representation of your organization. Always alert officers at your institution if a lawsuit is threatened, or if a matter is so specific or critical that your own institution's attorney should be involved. And yes -- you can always "Ask the Lawyer," if you don't know if a particular issue hits that threshold!

See the full FAQ here:

<https://wnylrc.org/services/askservices/faqs>

New Data from Two Years of Service

Digital Navigators of The Hudson Valley
Trained, trusted guides who help people with technology needs

The Digital Navigators program tackles urgent real-life digital barriers.

The patron needed to print train tickets... including forwarding an email, general smartphone email navigation, and using Safari on the iPhone.
Digital Navigator, Orange County

This client is applying for a Commercial Drivers License and needed to schedule a road test... We were able to successfully schedule his road test!
Digital Navigator, Dutchess County

hvconnected.org

We are excited to announce that for the first time, we have a full data study to share about the work of Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley. Using information gathered by dozens of Navigators through their work with thousands of clients from 2022 to 2024, this report demonstrates the positive impact our Navigators have made on our communities.

To learn more, you can [explore this information on our website](#), download PDF files [of the full executive summary](#), or download a [summary of data findings](#) to learn more about the impact of the program.

Employment Opportunities

Local library jobs are listed on our employment page here: <https://www.senylrc.org/jobs>

We receive updates all the time and post them as soon as possible. You can submit your listing by sending an email to jobposting@senylrc.org.

SEAL Newsletter

In case you missed it, here is the [November SEAL newsletter](#). Check out information on:

- SEAL News
- Southeastern Resource: Tech-Talk
- Updated Training Resources
- Inter-library Loan News

Would you like this newsletter delivered straight to your inbox the day it is published? The wait is over - [sign up to receive the SEAL Newsletter here](#)

NYLA Developing Leaders

New York Library Association (NYLA)'s Developing Leaders Program's mission is to connect, educate, and empower rising leaders in the library profession. This comprehensive six-month program, running from January to June, is tailored for library professionals with a minimum of three years of experience looking to explore and strengthen their leadership skills.

[Find out more information about the program and apply here](#)

Computers in Libraries Discount Code

The Annual Computers in Libraries Conference will be held on March 17-19 in Arlington, VA. Southeastern Members can receive a discount on conference passes by using the link below:

<https://secure.infotoday.com/RegForms/ComputersinLibraries?Priority=26SENL>

The Gold Pass will be available for the group rate of \$699 (regular rate is \$949). The Full 3 Day Pass will be \$399 (regular rate is \$649). Online registrations can be made until February 13 to receive the discounted rates.

Professional Development

From Southeastern NY Library Resources Council

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion SIG
Wednesday, December 3
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
via Zoom

LEADERSHIP SIG
DECEMBER 4
10:00 AM
In person at Southeastern

EDI SIG
Wednesday, December 3
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

We're back, and we're still talking about ways to support diversity in libraries. As long as our patrons come from different backgrounds and demographics, our job is to create programs and services that reflect the communities we serve. In this meeting, we will check in on how our efforts are going, support each other's challenges, and celebrate each other's joys.

This month's meeting will be held via Zoom.

[Register Here](#)

Leadership SIG
Thursday, December 4
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

In a new iteration of this group, we will talk about working in post-traumatic situations. Whether a traumatic situation was experienced by the collected staff or individually, on the job, or after hours, we can learn ways to adapt our management style to lead. At a time of turmoil and threats to libraries, leadership can feel lonelier than ever.

This meeting will be held in person in Southeastern's conference room.

[Register here](#)

Reference SIG

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Facilitator: [Maggie Leung](#), Dominican University
[Register here](#)

This month's topic is: Translating Reference Questions into Library Programs & Services. That will be our starting point for the conversation, and the details can be refined and amended by the participants as needed. Bring any reference questions you have handy!

Tech-Talk Webinars

1-hour sessions on Wednesdays at 3 pm

- December 3: [EXCEL] **Spreadsheet Storytelling: Interactive Features You Need.**
- December 17: [GRAPHICS] **GIF Animations for Images, Websites and Social Media.**
- January 14: [CYBERSECURITY] **Say Goodbye to Password Hassles with Passkeys!**
- January 28: [COMMUNICATION] **OurStoryBridge: Connecting the Past and Present! Why Attend?**
- February 11: [GOOGLE FORMS & AI] **Let AI Reveal the Story Behind Your Google Form Responses.**
- February 25: [WEB TOOLS] **Discover 10 Free Web Tools We Use Continually.**

[Webinar Details & Register at this link](#)

NOTE: You'll need Southeastern's login to register! Members can email Moshe Siegel at moshe@senylrc.org to request it if they don't have it.

Other Professional Development

Medical Librarians Supporting Pharmacists
Produced by South Central Regional Library Council
Tuesday, December 2: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

Strategic Planning Best Practices
Produced by Long Island Library Resources Council
Monday, December 8: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

Developing the Donor – Common Sense Approaches to Donor Relationships
Produced by Central NY Library Resources Council
Tuesday, December 9: 10:00 am - 11:00 am
[More information and registration here](#)

Transcribing the American Revolution: Programming Volunteer Service for the Library of Congress
Produced by Long Island Library Resources Council
Tuesday, December 9: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

A Dark History Revealed: The Roots of Eugenics on Long Island
Produced by Long Island Library Resources Council
Wednesday, December 10: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

The Science of Personal Care Products
Produced by Rochester Regional Library Council
Wednesday, December 10: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

An Introduction to NYS Historic Newspapers
Produced by Northern NY Library Network
Wednesday, January 14: 10:00 am - 11:00 am
[More information and registration here](#)

Weed'em and Reap – Keeping a Healthy Collection Through Weeding
Produced by Central NY Library Resources Council
Wednesday, January 14: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

Occupied Long Island: Voices from the American Revolution
Produced by Long Island Library Resources Council
Thursday, January 15: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

Lunch & Learn: Libraries as Key Players in Publishing: The Guthrie Clinic Journal of Medicine
Produced by South Central Regional Library Council
Thursday, January 29: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

SUNYLA Midwinter Virtual Conference
Produced by SUNYLA
Friday, February 6: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm
[Call for Proposals Due December 5](#)

Sustaining Academic Libraries: An Online Conference (Spring 2026)
Produced by Library Journal
June 15-16, 2026
[Call for Proposals Due March 2, 2026](#)

Advocacy Day 2026

On Tuesday, February 3, 2026 librarians from all over New York State will be heading to Albany to meet with elected officials. More details about the meetings will be coming soon! RCLS will be organizing buses, and there will be fewer this year than last year.

Because space is limited, we're encouraging everyone to register as soon as possible to claim a spot. See the links here to sign up:

[Bemford - Brewster - Albany, register here](#)

[West Nyack - Newburgh - Albany, register here](#)

[Self-Driving, register here](#)

For the buses, please note that a fee of \$10 per person is required. Payment may be made in the form of check, cash, or PayPal by January 29th.



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