



May 2025

Volume 20, Issue 5

Southeastern's board of trustees and staff, together with our strategic planning consultants, are conducting a [member survey](#), and your input is essential.

This is your opportunity to tell us how Southeastern is doing, what matters most to you, and how we can better support your work. We want to understand the value you get from your membership, the challenges you face, your priorities, and your overall satisfaction with our services and programs.

Your feedback will help shape Southeastern's next five-year service plan. The survey is open from **May 1 through Friday, May 30, 2025.**

[Take The Survey Here](#)

When you are finished with the survey, come back and take a look at everything happening this May:

- Annual Meeting Registration is open!
- Ask the Lawyer updates
- Employment
- New York Heritage
- Professional development
- Urban Biodiversity Research
- A Survey for Early Career Academic Librarians

Annual Meeting - Registration is open!

The wait is over, and registration is finally open for our annual meeting.

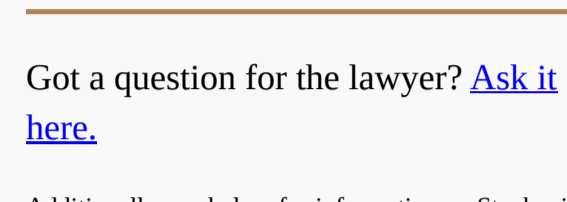
This year's meeting will be held at the Wallace Center at Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum on **Friday, June 6, 2025.**

Our keynote speaker is **Rebekkah Smith Aldrich** (MLS, LEED AP). She is the Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Library System and the co-founder/current president of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI).

For more information, visit our website here: <https://www.senylrc.org/event/2025-annual-meeting/>

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 RAQ's on the website:

- [Fan Fiction Programs at Public Libraries](#)
- [Owner Control of Service Animals in Public Spaces](#)
- [School District Public Library Election Deadlines on Weekends](#)
- [Showing Movies in A School - 2025 Update](#)
- [Patron Privacy Regarding Recording Devices and Minors](#)

Got a question for the lawyer? [Ask it here.](#)

Additionally, see below for information on Stephanie Cole's Anderson's Ask the HR Expert webinar series, which has now concluded.

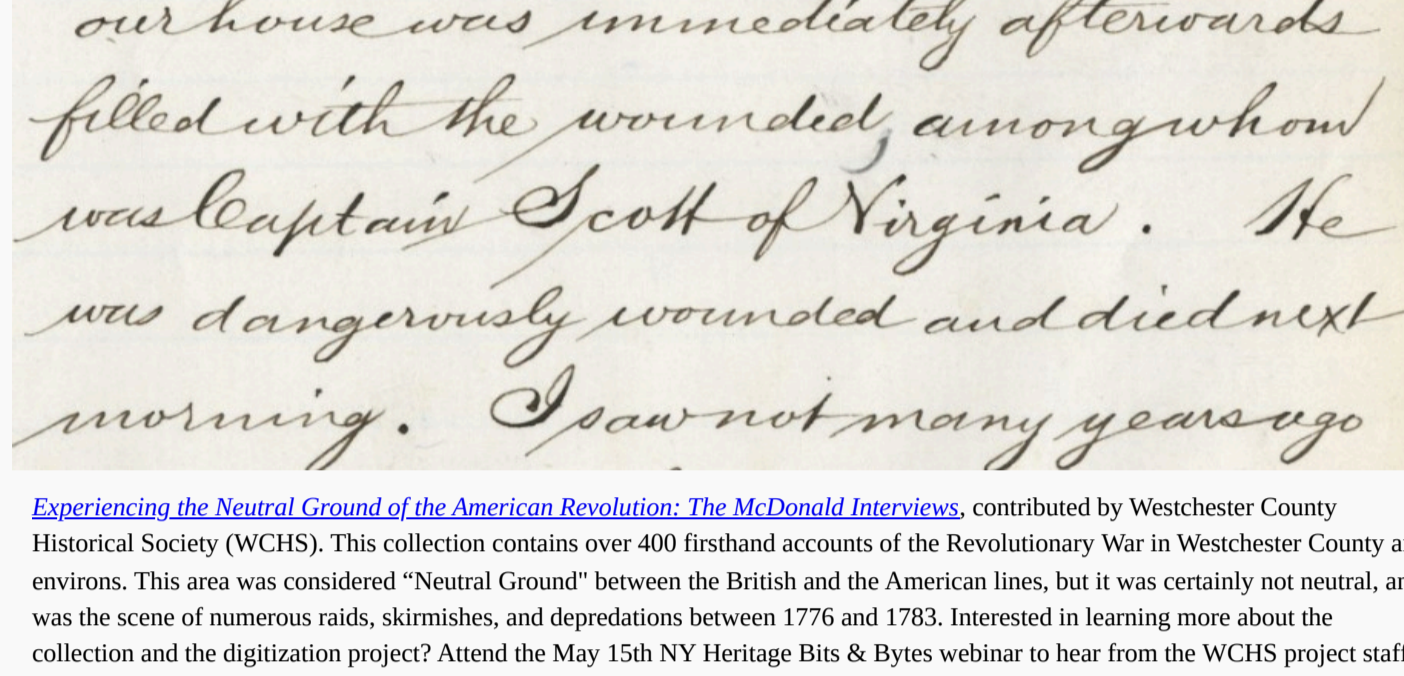
Early 2025 also changed the stability of specific federal programs, funding, and governance. This instability is creating concern about access to grants, federal programs, and legal frameworks. The [Ask the Lawyer Resources Page](#) has been updated with recent information. <https://www.senylrc.org/ask-the-hr-expert-webinars/>

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.

New At New York Heritage



[Experiencing the Neutral Ground of the American Revolution: The McDonald Interviews](#), contributed by Westchester County Historical Society (WCHS). This collection contains over 400 firsthand accounts of the Revolutionary War in Westchester County and environs. This area was considered "Neutral Ground" between the British and the American lines, but it was certainly not neutral, and was the scene of numerous raids, skirmishes, and depredations between 1776 and 1783. Interested in learning more about the collection and the digitization project? Attend the May 15th NY Heritage Bits & Bytes webinar to hear from the WCHS project staff who digitized, transcribed and annotated the collection. [You may register here.](#) This webinar is a collaboration between Westchester County Historical Society, New York Heritage, New York Archives Magazine, and the Archives Partnership Trust.

The image is from an interview with Hannah Mabie Miller. Link to interview: <https://nyheritage.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16694coll217/id/1101/rev/4>

NYLA Scholarships and Awards

NYLA advances excellence in New York libraries. One way they do this is by recognizing excellence through scholarships and awards.

We love it when we see Southeastern Member libraries represented! It's always worth a try, so please visit their website for more information here: <https://nyla.memberclicks.net/awards>

Professional Development

Reference
Special Interest Group
Check in | share ideas | network
Tuesday, July 8: 11am-12:30pm

IN PERSON!

Reference Group
Tuesday, July 8
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

This month's topic is: Promoting database selection and use in reference interactions
We will discuss how we talk about and encourage specific databases while working with patrons. To take advantage of the in-person format, we will do a group activity so that everyone can participate. The meeting is open to library workers from all types.
We will discuss issues relevant to both academic and public librarians.

[Register here](#)

DART Workshop
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

TECH TRAINING FOR SENIORS

DART Workshop
Wednesday, May 7
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Are you interested in helping older adults avoid scams? Come learn about a project called DART (Deception Awareness and Resilience Tools). This group created a puzzle game for seniors called Deepcover. It is free on the App Store, and gameplay involves exposing players to various deceptive tactics and language scammers use. In addition to being fun to play, the game helps players become more familiar with language and tactics used in scams.

[Register Here](#)

Digital Preservation SIG
Wednesday, May 14
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
online via Zoom
[Register here](#)

The DigPres SIG will focus on strategies, activities, and technologies relating to preserving digital content for the long-term. The topic for this month's meeting will be Bagger. This is a free and simple tool developed by the Library of Congress to support the packaging, transfer and validation of file sets. At this SIG meeting, Palash Bosgang (Bard College) and Zack Spalding (Southeastern) will discuss and demonstrate its use in their digital preservation workflows. <https://www.senylrc.org/event/digital-preservation-sig/>

NYAC Watch Party
Friday, June 13
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
in person, Southeastern's Conference Room

RSVP to watch with us here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeX049PoX5wQVVRlYI_ke5-tPIUD54e4NdlJpa-EC_s0SO0w/viewform

The New York Archives Conference Board is excited to announce year two of a project to bring NYAC members together during the virtual conference: NYAC Watch Parties! The Regional Connections Committee is pleased to provide nine dedicated Watch Party locations where you can view the conference with others from your area, including time for networking and discussion on Friday, June 13, 2025.

Tech-Talk Webinars
1-hour sessions on Wednesdays at 3 pm

- May 14: [GMAIL] **Inbox Zero Strategy – Managing Emails Efficiently**
- May 28: [DESIGN] **Design That Captivates: Creating Effective Flyers, Web Pages, and Presentations**
- Jun 11: [GOOGLE] **Google Tabs: Use this New Feature to Boost Your Docs Organization.**
- Jun 25: [JOB SEEKING] **From Job Seeker to Hired: Empower Your Patrons with Indeed.**
- July 9: [PHOTO ORGANIZING] **Your Photo Mess, Solved: Smart Organizing with Google Photos**
- July 23: [AI & COMMUNICATIONS] **Using ChatGPT to Handle Challenging People with Confidence**

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

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

Other Professional Development

- 2025 Preservation Conference**
Produced by Landmark Society of Western New York
@DoubleTree Poughkeepsie
Tuesday, May 6 - Thursday, May 8
[More information and registration here](#)
- Brighter Social Media Skies: Exploring Bluesky For Library-Worker Online Community**
Produced by METRO
Tuesday, May 6: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)
- Rooting out Dysfunction and Creating Successful Teams**
Produced by Rochester Regional Library Council
Wednesday, May 14: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)
- Finding Hidden Links in the Underground Railroad: Oneonta and Norwich, NY**
Produced by South Central Regional Library Council
Thursday, May 15: 10:00 am - 11:00 am
[More information and registration here](#)
- Spring on the Hill: Advocacy for Every Season**
Produced by NYLA
Tuesday, May 20: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)
- Webinar: Hazard Analysis Techniques Overview**
Produced by Central NY Library Resources Council
Wednesday, May 21: 10:00 am - 11:00 am
[More information and registration here](#)
- ENYACRL 2025**
Wednesday, May 21
@University at Albany
[More information and registration here](#)
- Recruitment and Retention (ESLN Academic Leadership Series)**
Produced by ESLN
Thursday, May 29: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)
- Reinvigorating Librarianship Symposium**
Friday, May 30: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm
@Capital District Library Council, Albany
[More information and registration here](#)
- Articulating Value: Leveling Up Your Stakeholder Communications**
Produced by Rochester Regional Library Council
Wednesday, June 11: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)
- New York Archives Conference**
Produced by NYAC
Friday, June 13
[Call for Proposals here](#)
- SUNYLA 2025 - Climbing the Mountain: Fostering Collaboration and Building Community**
Produced by SUNYLA
@ SUNY Delhi, June 18-20
[Call for Posters here](#) (due April 4)
- [Summer 2025 Instructional Design Courses from School Library Journal](#)
(various dates & times.)

Help Urban Biodiversity Research

The following message came to us from Shannon LaDeau, senior scientist at member institution Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies:

The Hudson valley is an incredible and unique region. What happens to ecological function as it develops and attempts to support increasing human populations? How can urban 'green' spaces support ecological function within or between cities? These are the types of questions examined by a new research partnership with Scenic Hudson: [Defining Urban Biodiversity](#). We're engaging with local communities to understand how ecological communities (biodiversity) persist and function in and across our changing landscape. Beginning this May, we are working to assemble biodiversity data across a range of formal and informal 'green' spaces in the cities of Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, and Kingston. We prioritize engagement with local communities in each of the focal cities. However, we also need expertise across a wide range of taxa. This spring, we especially need volunteers with bird, amphibian, or pollinator identification skills!

We have established specific iNaturalist projects for [Poughkeepsie](#), [Kingston](#), and [Newburgh](#). We'll be looking to these crowd-sourced data to help define regional 'urban' species pools and refine our more targeted sampling.

We are hosting a group of interested volunteers for a 'bioblitz' event at College Hill Park in Poughkeepsie on the morning of Saturday, May 17 at 10am, meeting at the [North Clinton Street](#) entrance.

We are planning bird surveys in all three cities for the weeks of May 12 - 23 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday between 8-11am. Exact locations for each city will be shared with interested parties in early May.

If members are interested in getting involved with a particular event, please email Shannon LaDeau at LADEAUS@caryinstitute.org OR my Scenic Hudson partner, Kayla Patel, at kpatel@scenicudson.org.

Survey for Early Career Academic Librarians

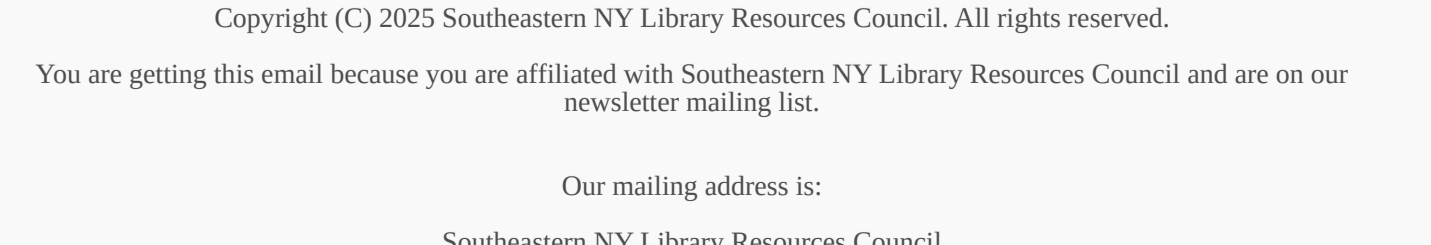
Are you an early career academic librarian who completed your MLIS (or equivalent) in 2020 or later? We would love you to participate in our voluntary research study. The purpose of this study is to use an evidence-based approach to identify how early career academic librarians feel about their early academic librarian positions and the graduate training they received—the good, the bad, and the information you wish you had had.

Participating in this study is voluntary and will consist of completing a 10–15-minute online survey. Responses will be collected anonymously, and in the reporting process, your responses will be treated with the care and respect of other early career librarians who may be navigating similar experiences.

[Please respond to the survey at your earliest convenience and no later than Friday, May 16, 2025.](#) Link to the survey: https://utah.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9BJpe4PB17JY5YO

We appreciate your contributions to this study. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either or both of us.

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