

# SOUTHEASTERN NEWS

November 2025

Volume 20, Issue 11

This November, we're sharing the bounty of our work over the past few months. Between dozens of new Ask the Lawyer responses, information about the Candid Foundation Directory, a new cohort of Digital Navigators, and a super cool exhibit from Hudson, there's so much to share with you. Make sure to scroll all the way to the end for all the upcoming professional development!

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

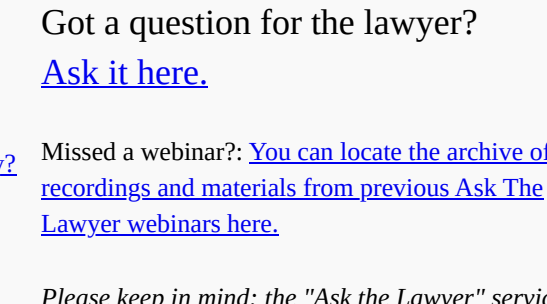
- Ask the Lawyer
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- Advocacy Day - save the date!

## 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 RAQs on the website from the past few months:

- [Student Newspaper Archives, Fair Use, Licensing, and the DMCA](#)
- [Public Library Taxes: Does a 25% Automatically End a 414?](#)
- [Best practices for faxing sensitive documents](#)
- [2025 "First Amendment Auditing" in The Library Roundup](#)
- [Pushing Back on Problematic Terms in Subscription Contracts](#)
- [Is a Public Library Responsible for Patron Conduct Outside the Library?](#)
- [School District Public Library Building Permits](#)
- [Using a Board Committee to Authorize Changes During Library Construction Project](#)
- [Adult and Student Volunteers in School Libraries](#)
- [Do library board committees have to follow the Open Meetings Law?](#)
- [Academic Integrity, Artificial Intelligence, and Faculty Liability](#)
- [School District Public Library Elections: Who's in Charge?](#)
- [Can Employees Volunteer at Their Library?](#)
- [Does the Rise of AI Mean Public Libraries Should Stop Posting Policies to Ensure Security?](#)
- [Is a 414 a "new tax"?](#)



Got a question for the lawyer?

[Ask it here.](#)

Missed a webinar? [You can locate the archive of recordings and materials from previous Ask The Lawyer webinars 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 RAQ here: <https://wnylrc.org/services/askservices/raqs>

## New on HRVH!



[Image:](#) Engraved whaletooth, ship George Clinton of Hudson, 1835 Gift of the Friends of the Nantucket Historical Society

The most important thing to know about the City of Hudson's connection to the whaling industry is that NO, whales do not swim up the Hudson River. Once you have that fact tucked under your belt, prepare yourself to learn so much more about how and why whales and the city share a deep, rich history.

This new online exhibit, [Hudson: A History of Whaling and Maritime Commerce](#), is an extension of the physical exhibit that was on display at [Hudson Area Library](#) earlier this year. The project was a collaboration with [Columbia County Historical Society](#), as well as the Hendrick Hudson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

## Candid Foundation Directory

Governing and HRVH member organizations can access the Candid Foundation Directory, an online database that connects nonprofits with funding opportunities. Recognizing that nonprofit cultural organizations are facing fiscal uncertainty and potentially losing access to longstanding federal grant programs, the Empire State Library Network has negotiated remote access to the Foundation Directory. This best-in-class research tool helps nonprofits identify and connect with over 240,000 U.S. grant makers. Each dues-paying member of Southeastern is eligible for a user login.

While some public libraries offer public access to this resource, for your convenience, this partnership will provide direct access to the Foundation Directory for Southeastern members' staff.

*Please remember that the access provided by Southeastern is licensed for our members' staff use and is not intended for library users or the general public.*

Registering for access to the Candid Foundation Directory is ongoing, and you can do that here: <https://access.esln.org/>

If you already have an account and are ready to jump in and use The Foundation Directory, here is the link: <https://access.esln.org/>

Please direct questions to Zach Spalding - [spalding@senylrc.org](mailto:spalding@senylrc.org)

## Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley

[A new cohort of Digital Navigators is forming now!](#) Please see our website for dates, requirements, and more information about the program.

Applications are open to individuals who work at libraries and nonprofit organizations in the following counties: Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester. You must be currently employed or have regular volunteer hours and have the support of your institution.

New applications will not be accepted beyond **Wednesday, November 26 at 12pm**. Participation is limited, and a complete application does not guarantee approval for the program. Training starts on **Tuesday, December 2**.

## 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](mailto:jobposting@senylrc.org).

## SEAL Newsletter

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

- Notes from SEAL User's Group
- Cleaning up Inactive SEAL Accounts
- From the archives...
- Additional Updates

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](#)

## DHPSNY Planning & Assessment Services

Apply Now: Fall Planning & Assessment Applications Close November 21! See the website for details here: <https://dhpsny.org/planning-assessment>

As the year winds down, it's the perfect time to take stock of your collections and set priorities for the year ahead. **Documentary Heritage & Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY)** can help.

Their free [Planning & Assessment Services](#) give collecting organizations across New York State the tools to strengthen preservation practices, clarify priorities, and plan with confidence. Whether you're a team of one, a group of passionate volunteers, or seasoned professionals, their expert support meets you where you are.

Applications are open for: Strategic Planning Assistance, Preservation Surveys, Condition Surveys, and Archival Needs Assessments.

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 EST on Friday, November 21 for consideration in the fall 2025 review period. For more information, contact [info@dhpsny.org](mailto:info@dhpsny.org) or (215) 545-0613 ext. 337.

From Southeastern NY Library Resources Council

## Professional Development



**Call for Presentations!**  
Fall Poster Session  
Friday, November 14  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

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

This open house at Southeastern allows all members and affiliate members to share ideas and enjoy fall treats. All attendees will have the opportunity to interact and network with the presenters and other library workers.

We encourage first-time presenters to join us, so this is the place if you are a supervisor or manager who would like to give your staff experience. This event is now in its third year!

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](#)

[Register Here](#)

### Leadership and Management Skills SIG

Thursday, December 4  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Location: Southeastern NY Library Resources Council

[Register here](#)

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 is an opportunity to share collective experiences and brainstorm about solutions.

### Reference SIG

Tuesday, January 13, 2026  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
Facilitator: **Maggie Leung**, Dominican University

[Register here](#)

This month's topic is: Reference Stats: Why we keep them, How we keep them, What we do with them! That will be our starting point for the conversation, and the details can be refined and amended by the participants as needed. Bring any stats you have handy!

### Call For Proposals: 2026 Banned Books Symposium: Proactive, Reactive, Supportive

Saturday, May 16, 2026  
Dutchess BOCES in Poughkeepsie, NY.

This half-day conference will feature presentations in all capacities of banned and challenged books and programs.

[If you are interested in presenting at this conference, please submit your proposal here.](#)

Sessions will be formatted in 50-minute blocks (including time for Q&A). Topic suggestions include, but are not limited to the following:

- Using challenged/banned books in the classroom
- Policies and procedures when a book is challenged
- Personal experiences with books being challenged/banned
- Programs surrounding banned books
- Other relevant topics

This Symposium is in partnership with Southeastern New York Library Resources Council, Ramapo Catskill Library System, Mid-Hudson Library System, Mount Saint Mary College, SUNY New Paltz, and BOCES School Library Systems of Dutchess and Ulster.

Note: Presentation proposals accepted until November 15, 2025. Accepted proposals will receive notification by December 8, 2025.

### Tech-Talk Webinars

- November 5: [EMAIL] **Organizing Email: Clear the Clutter, Stay in Control.**
- November 19: [INTERNET] **Internet Search Techniques: Search Smarter, Save Time.**
- December 3: [EXCEL] **Spreadsheet Storytelling: Interactive Features You Need.**
- December 17: [GRAPHICS] **GIF Animations for Images, Websites and Social Media.**

[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](mailto:moshe@senylrc.org) to request it if they don't have it.

## Other Professional Development

**Going to NYLA this week? Don't miss:**

ESLN Luncheon - ESLN Comedy Hour  
Thursday, November 6: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
[More information and registration here](#)

**Webinar: Grant Writing with Rachel Stevenson**  
Produced by Central NY Library Resources Council  
Thursday, November 13: 10:00 am - 11:00 am  
[More information and registration here](#)

**Behind the Scenes: Special Curator's Tour of Scenic Vistas: Landscape as Culture in Early New York**  
Produced by Greater Hudson Heritage Network  
@Boscobel House & Gardens  
Friday, November 14: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
[More information and registration here](#)

**Creative Commons and Open Access: What You Need to Know!**  
Produced by Long Island Library Resources Council  
Tuesday, November 18: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
[More information and registration here](#)

**Critical Data Storytelling for Libraries**  
Produced by ESLN  
Wednesday, November 19: 10:00 am - 11:00 am  
[More information and registration here](#)

**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](#)

**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](#)

**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](#)

## 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 will be coming soon, including buses and meetings that will be scheduled in conjunction with RCLS and MHLS.



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