

SOUTHEASTERN NEWS

January 2026

Volume 21, Issue 1

Every January, we celebrate Public Domain Day, the day when works that are 75 years old (with some exceptions) are free for you to use, remix, and share. We look forward to your creative works featuring Nancy Drew and Betty Boop. This milestone is also a time for you to review your items from 1930 and earlier to identify any holdings that may now be out of copyright. For more information, see the comprehensive guide from the [Center for the Study of the Public Domain](#).

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

- Ask the Lawyer
- Employment Opportunities
- SEAL Newsletter
- SENYCon 11
- 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.

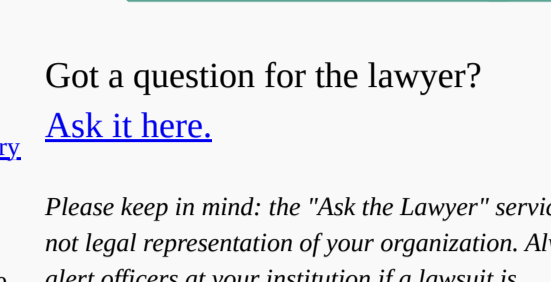
There are some new FAQs on the website from November:

- [Viva La Difference: Lobbying, Political Activity, and Telling People How To Vote](#)
- [The Low-down on Libraries Lobbying](#)
- [How to Confirm the Number of Trustees at a NYSFD-Chartered Library](#)
- [Public Library Investments and the "True Trust" Escape Hatch](#)
- [Hardening the Target in the Face of AI Bots](#)

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>

HRVH in the News

Recently, three separate local publications highlighted projects from the Hudson River Valley Heritage collections. We are so proud of our members for receiving this public recognition and we're happy to share it with you here:

New York Almanac: [Putnam County's East Branch Reservoir History Collection Debuts](#)

"Water has always played a vital role in the history of Putnam County, NY. Now, Brewster High School senior and Eagle Scout candidate Connor O'Reilly has led a service project commemorating the construction of the East Branch Reservoir in the Town of Southeast, completed more than a century ago..." [\[read more\]](#)

[View the The Croton Reservoir System & The Town of Southeast collection here](#)



The Daily Freeman: [Thousands of early Freeman editions and other newspapers saved at Ulster County Hall of Records](#)

"Archives building now home to 541 volumes of preserved historic newspapers. KINGSTON, N.Y. — Thousands of 19th and early 20th century newspapers — Daily Freeman originals mostly — are now safely stacked away in a climate-controlled vault on Foxhall Avenue in Kingston..." [\[read more\]](#)

[View the Kingston Freeman photo archives here.](#)

New Paltz Alumni Magazine: [Uncovering Material History: Students, faculty build an interdisciplinary hub for local history](#)

"When SUNY New Paltz Associate Dean and English Professor Cyrus Mulready launched his Honors Program seminar, The Materials of History, Thought, and Art, in 2013, he wasn't just asking student scholars to study the past, he was asking them to immerse themselves in it..." [\[read more\]](#)

[View Storied Objects \(SUNY New Paltz project\) here.](#)



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 [December SEAL newsletter](#). Check out information on:

- Out of Office Tips for SEAL
- Placing Multiple Requests
- General 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](#)

Computers in Libraries Discount Code

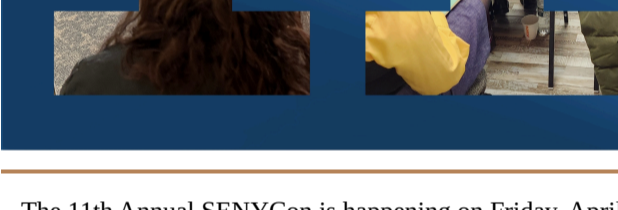
The Annual Computers in Libraries Conference will be held on March 17-19 in Arlington, VA. Southeastern members can receive a discount on conference passes by using the link below:

<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.

From Southeastern NY Library Resources Council

Professional Development



SENYCON 2026

Friday, April 10, 2026
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Call for Proposals!

Southeastern NY Library Resources Council

The 11th Annual SENYCon is happening on Friday, April 10, 2026! We are welcoming all back to our space to celebrate a decade of inspiring work from our members. Presentations will be in person, attendees can come in person or watch a livestream.

[Send in your proposal here](#)

SENYCon is a collection of presentations from member library workers for member library workers. It is a place for you to showcase big and small ideas. In this forum, you can practice future presentations, deliver encore presentations, or share something you've learned on the job that will benefit others.

If you have a unique idea, clever work hack, best practice, or want to practice your presentation skills, we invite you to submit your proposal using the form linked above. Southeastern's Continuing Education Committee will review the submissions and decide which will be selected to be part of another diverse and engaging day.

The deadline for proposals is Friday, February 6, Anywhere On Earth

*In the case of inclement weather or power outages, we may postpone the event to Friday, April 17, 2026

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!

Digital Preservation SIG

Wednesday, January 28, 2026
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
[Register here](#)

This group meets regularly to discuss digital preservation projects, challenges, and successes. All are welcome to join. The topic for this meeting will be announced soon.

Leadership and Management SIG

Thursday, January 29, 2026
10:00 am - 11:00 am
Facilitator: **Laura Wolven**, Finkelstein Memorial Library
Location: Southeastern NY Library Resources Council
[Register here](#)

Topic: Leadership and Trauma Recovery

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.

Tech-Talk Webinars

1-hour sessions on Wednesdays at 3 pm

- 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.
- March 11: [WEB AUTHORIZING] Webpage Accessibility That Actually Works for Libraries, WCAG 2.1 Explained.
- March 25: [WORD] Using Word's Page Breaks, Tabs & Sections for Polished Documents.

[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

CALA Workshop - Mastering Copy Cataloging

Produced by Capital District Library Council
Wednesday, January 7, 2026: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

Organizing Your Message: an Academic Library Plan

Produced by Northern NY Library Network
Thursday, January 8: 10:00 am - 11:00 am
[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](#)

PowerNotes Vendor Demo & Q&A

Produced by Capital District Library Council
Thursday, January 15: 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

Building a Culture of Accessibility at Your Library

Produced by the New York State Library
Friday, January 16: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

Preservation Interest Group: Working with Volunteers

Produced by Capital District Library Council
Tuesday, January 20: 9:30 am - 11:00 am
[More information and registration here](#)

Let the People Hear It: Concerts from the Library of Congress at 100

Produced by Long Island Library Resources Council
Tuesday, January 27: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

Webinar: Workplace Violence Prevention

Produced by Central NY Library Resources Council
Wednesday, January 28: 10:00 am - 11:00 am
[More information and registration here](#)

The New Library Landscape: Trends, Tensions, and Transformations in NYS

Produced by Long Island Library Resources Council
Thursday, January 29: 10:00 am - 11:00 am
[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](#)

Common Cents: Creating a Robust Programming Schedule on a Shoestring Budget

Produced by Rochester Regional Library Council
Thursday, February 5: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

SUNYLA Midwinter Virtual Conference

Produced by SUNYLA
Friday, February 6: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm
[More information and registration here](#)

Sustaining the Future of Academic Libraries: An Online Conference

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.

Emilstord - 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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