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# SOUTHEASTERN NEWS

## December 2023

Volume 18, Issue 12

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## Welcome!

The year is winding down, and we have lots to share with you in this last newsletter of 2023. As you look over the programs and services highlighted here, we have a request. If you find yourself in a new position in 2024 or if you have new hires coming on board, please share this information. You can also reach out if you would like to know more about what we offer to our members. This newsletter is the tip of the iceberg.

As for the rest... **if you only have time for one thing**: Please look at the extensive bank of questions and answers from Ask the Lawyer, including one on changes to unemployment.

Additionally, we have news on:

- The new Digital Navigators cohort & info session
- Computers in Libraries Discount
- Employment Opportunities
- Volunteer opportunities at correctional facilities
- Professional Development from us and ESLN, including the SENYCon call for proposals and the upcoming Inclusive Metadata webinar.

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## 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.

Answered questions go on a [RAQ shared by the ESLN councils on WNYLRC's website here](#). Recent questions include:

- [Updated Unemployment Benefits in NY Labor Law](#)
- [Pass-Through Status for Libraries](#)
- [Determining Responsibility in Materials Selection Policy](#)
- [Setting Limits on Pay Outs of Accrued Vacation Time](#)
- [Limiting Digital Content Access in Schools](#)
- [Liability and Accessibility for Bike Lock Loans](#)
- [Prevailing Wage Rates And Libraries](#)
- [Fundraising in Public Libraries](#)

Got a question for the lawyer?

[Ask it on the form here!](#)

A question came into the RAQ: *"I heard that as of November 13, 2023, ALL employers in New York must notify an employee of the ability to apply for Unemployment Benefits upon "separation of employment" OR if their regular weekly hours are reduced to below 30. Is this true?"*

<-- Please see the response highlighted at the top of the list.



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Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley

**Applications are open now!**



The application for Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley winter 2024 session, which will run January 2024 - March 2024, is now open for individuals affiliated with libraries and organizations in the Hudson Valley.

The program is open to anyone who works at a library or a community-based organization that would like to offer Digital Navigator services to their patrons. 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. This cohort is open to both individuals who have previously trained as a Digital Navigator and those who are new to the program.

If you have questions or would like to know more, the system staff members will be holding an information session on Tuesday, December 5 from 2pm - 3pm. [You can register for that event here.](#)

Visit the [Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley website](#) to view the requirements for the program. Navigators who meet the requirements by March 31, 2024 will receive a \$500 investment incentive that is payable to their organization.

**Applications are due by Tuesday, December 19th, at 12:00 pm.**

[More information here](#)

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## 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).

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## Computers in Libraries Discount

Registration is now open for [Computers in Libraries 2024](#), held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA. If you are receiving this email, you are eligible for a discount by using the code: **24SEN**. Or, you can [follow the link here](#) and the code with discounts will be embedded.

With the code, the Gold Pass will be available for the discount rate of \$679 (the regular rate is \$929). The Full 3-Day Pass will be \$399 (regular rate is \$639).

In addition, a discounted price of \$629 (regularly \$779) on the Library Leaders Summit (includes all three days of CIL), is also available.

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## Volunteer Services Program of Corrections and Community Supervision

Did you know that anyone can volunteer in a NYS correctional facility library with the Volunteer Services Program of Corrections and Community Supervision? (The keyword is “directive 4750” if you are searching online for this document): <https://doccs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/12/4750.pdf>  
All of the forms and specs are in this document.

If any volunteer would like to ask specific questions about a facility's general library, feel free to ask Corinne Leone, at (518) 485-7109, [corinne.leone@doccs.ny.gov](mailto:corinne.leone@doccs.ny.gov).

The Division of Volunteer Services can be reached at (518) 402-1700 or [mfvs@doccs.ny.gov](mailto:mfvs@doccs.ny.gov) for specific volunteer questions. Please specify the facilities that you are interested in.

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From Southeastern NY Library Resources Council

## Professional Development

9th Annual  
SENYCon  
April 12, 2024

in person | online | hybrid



### Call for proposals!!!

This year's event will take place on **Friday, April 12, 2024**. Libraries of all types are represented, and the event is free and open to all. This year, we will again present a hybrid event based on the interest of applicants.

If you're looking for inspiration on what kinds of topics work for this event, see our [LibGuide of previous SENYCon presentations and lineups](#).

**The deadline for proposals is Wednesday, January 17, Anywhere On Earth**



### **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion SIG**

Facilitated by **Tracy Dunstan & Morgan Strand**, Nyack Library  
Thursday, December 7,  
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

On Location at The Nyack Library, Nyack NY

The Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion SIG meets to discuss anti-racism and actions that library workers can take to create a more just library environment for all.

This month, we will discuss gaslighting in all its forms and brainstorm responses we can use when we face it in the workplace.

[Register here](#)

EMPIRE STATE LIBRARY NETWORK  
presents:

## **Inclusive Metadata**

What it is, why it is important and how it can help you meet your EDI goals!

Wednesday,  
January 24:  
1pm-2pm



### **Webinar: Inclusive Metadata**

Wednesday, January 24,  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
online via Zoom

In this webinar, we'll discuss inclusive metadata: what it is, why it's important, and how it can reflect your institution's goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion. We'll discuss the historical biases that have influenced descriptive practices, and explore best practices to audit, research, and improve your terminology to better reflect the identities and values of the people who use your collections and those represented within them. In the process we'll look at a few real world examples to help you move toward creating more inclusive and care-based metadata.

[Register Here](#)

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### **Public Comments - New York State's Digital Equity Plan**

Tuesday, December 5, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Register here: <https://www.senylrc.org/event/public-comments-new-york-states-digital-equity-plan-11-9-23/>

ConnectALL will conduct several meetings to gather public comment on the State's Digital Equity Plan. These regional meetings are for residents and stakeholders in the Mid-Hudson region. They will be hosted by Digital Equity Coalition partners from the Stem Alliance and Southeastern NY Library Resources Council. All are welcome.

We will present information from ConnectALL on the Digital Equity Plan and give participants directions to use an online portal to share their comments and perspectives from the meeting. (Please note this event was rescheduled from earlier in November, and the December 7 meeting on the same topic has been canceled.)

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### **Digital Navigators Information Session**

Tuesday, December 5, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Register here: <https://www.senylrc.org/event/digital-navigators-information-session/>

This session is for anyone who is curious about Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley. If you are considering applying to the upcoming cohort, have already applied, or want this service at your library or organization, this meeting is for you!

We will give you an overview of the program timeline and how Digital Navigators are helping individuals in the Hudson Valley achieve Digital Equity. There will be plenty of time for Q&A so that you can ask about the program requirements and decide if you want to join.

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### **Tech-Talk Webinars**

1-hour sessions on Wednesdays at 3pm

- Dec 6: [AI] **Web Tools That are Now Using Artificial Intelligence**
- Dec 20: [EXCEL] **Create a Gantt Chart for Managing Projects and Time**
- Jan 10: [SOCIAL MEDIA] **Instagram 101... A Beginner's Guide to Social Success**
- Jan 24: [ORGANIZE] **Desktop Organization - Simplify Your Computer Life**

[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

### **“Word is Bond”: Community Care at the Intersections of Black Literacies and Black Radical Traditions**

Produced by Northern NY Library Resources Council

Tuesday, December 6: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

[More information and registration here](#)

### **Bedbugs in the Workplace**

Produced by Rochester Regional Library Council

Tuesday, December 6: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

[More information and registration here](#)

### **Personal care products: typical formulations and how they work, hazards, and alternatives**

Produced by South Central Regional Library Council

Wednesday, December 7: 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

[More information and registration here](#)

### **Protect The Right To Read: Neutrality, Challenges, and Censorship**

Produced by Western NY Library Resources Council

Thursday, December 7: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[More information and registration here](#)

### **Workplace Bullying Literacy: The challenges and some responses**

Produced by Capital District Library Council

Friday, December 8: 10:00 am - 11:00 am

[More information and registration here](#)

### **Going the Extra Mile – Making Your Library ADA-Friendly Instead of ADA-Compliant**

Produced by Central NY Library Resources Council

Tuesday, December 19: 10:00 am - 11:00 am

[More information and registration here](#)

### **Fostering Access, Rights, and Equity (FARE) for Women Workers in NYS**

Produced by Central NY Library Resources Council

Tuesday, January 9: 10:00 am - 11:00 am

[More information and registration here](#)

### **Digital Equity Roundtable Featuring Cory Doctorow: Seize the Means of Computation: A Big Tech Disassembly Manual**

Produced by the New York State Library

Friday, January 12: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[More information and registration here](#)

### **Reading Together - Secrets to a Long-Running Graphic Novel Book Club**

Produced by Northern NY Library Resources Council

Tuesday, January 23: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

[More information and registration here](#)





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