

# New Jersey



So you want to find out more about our home state, New Jersey. This list will help you navigate through the library to find lots of fun and fascinating facts about the Garden State.

## *Encyclopedias*



A good place to start your journey is check an encyclopedia. Every general encyclopedia has an entry about each state under the full name of the state. Many school projects are arranged around the information that is found in a general encyclopedia.

## *Other Reference Books*



Check with your librarian to see if your library has a set of reference books about the states. You can look up New Jersey in one of these sets. Many children's atlases have special pages on each of the states showing places of interest, major cities, landmarks, bodies of water, major products and other interesting information.

## *Finding New Jersey in the Library Catalog*

When using the library catalog, make sure you put in "New Jersey" (not the abbreviation "NJ") as a **subject search**. The catalog will list all the sub-topics the books are about. If you need general information, select the books listed as **New Jersey – Juvenile Literature**. This will list all the books with general information about the state.

New Jersey has two unique Dewey numbers assigned to it. These are **917.4**, usually used for travel guides, and **974.9**, usually used for history. Your library may put all of its state titles under one number or use both numbers -- check with your librarian about this. Don't forget to also check these numbers on the Reference shelves for more books.

Also books about state birds (**598**), flags (**929.92**), trees (**582.1**), and so forth, may be under those topics rather than with the state books. If you need just a list of these items, check in a general book about New Jersey or the encyclopedia first, then look for more specific books if you need more detailed information.



## *Famous People*

Most general books about New Jersey include a list of famous people from New Jersey. Once you locate someone you find interesting on that list, check your library's Biography Section under the last name of the person to see if they own a book on that person. You can also check the **920s** for books with multiple biographies for your person.



## *New Jersey Fiction*

You might be interested in reading a story set in New Jersey or perhaps written by someone who lived here. To find stories that take place in New Jersey, look in the catalog under **New Jersey -- Juvenile Fiction**. You can also do a keyword search for **New Jersey Fiction** to find more titles.

Finding New Jersey authors is not as easy though. First check with your librarian to see if the library has a list of authors. You can also look in the encyclopedia to see if they have a list of authors in the New Jersey entry.

*Having trouble deciding on a topic?*

*Need help finding some sources  
to help you?*

*Can't find information on a topic  
you have chosen?*

*Who are you going to call?  
**Your Librarian!***

And don't forget Internet sources. Your librarian will be able to help you find some reliable websites to help you decide on your topic or give you more information on a topic you have already selected. Articles in periodicals are another source of great information that your librarian can help you access.

And your librarian is only a phone call or e-mail away!



Highlands Regional  
Library Cooperative  
Youth Services  
Committee  
[www.hrlc.org](http://www.hrlc.org)

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## At your library