



Director's Report
November 2025

Windows Notebook and Chromebook Group Purchase: The devices have been ordered, and the windows laptops have started to arrive. We'll be delivering them to the libraries that placed orders.

LUCC Legislative Breakfast: I had the opportunity to attend the LUCC breakfast and was invited to speak about the benefits of being a member of a consortium. It was a well-attended event and Union Public Library provided tours afterwards for those who hadn't yet seen their new building.

NEIUG Regional Meeting: The New England/North East Regional Innovative User Group has been restarted and is having their first meeting on December 3rd up in Connecticut. STELLA staff will be attending to see what's new with Innovative and help support this regional user group and we hope that it may be hosted in northern NJ next year to further increase attendance from those in this area.

League of Municipalities Convention: I attended the convention this year – they had just over 17,000 attendees and quite a collection of vendors in the exhibit hall. I went to sessions such as "Cybersecurity for local government" and "Electric Fleets", and I stopped by the NJLA booth. We may want to consider having a booth for STELLA at a future convention to help promote our services and make our new branding more well-known across other entities in the state.

QZ Tray Slightly Delayed: Shortly after our upgrade to Polaris 7.8, a glitch was discovered with QZ tray and label printing. Innovative has been made aware of the problem and is working on a solution that will likely be part of Polaris 8.0 in the spring release cycle. If it becomes available as a patch to our existing version, we'll apply it and let members know.

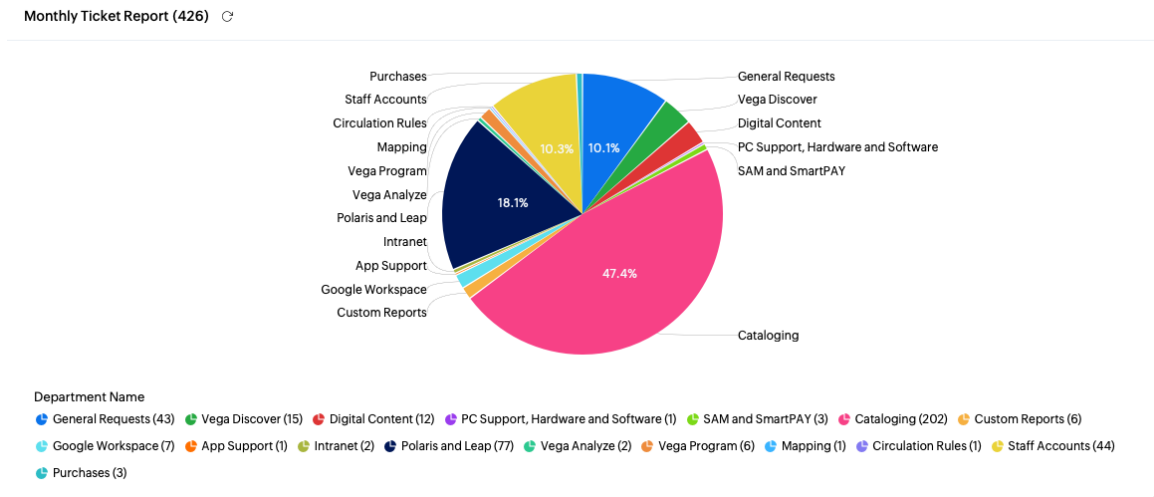
Time and Print Management RFP: We've released the RFP and have started receiving the initial questions from the vendors.

Bookmark Distribution: We've received the bookmarks and have started distributing to member libraries over the past month. We'll retain a stock of extra bookmarks from this order for any libraries needing more.

eLibraryNJ Letters of Agreement: The 2026 budget and letters of agreement have been sent out to participating members – for those that we’ve received signed agreements we’ve started sending them invoices.

NJLA Public Policy Forum: I attended the Public Policy meeting at Livingston last week. It had useful presentations about grassroots protesting, ways to get legislators involved and keeping them informed, and the public policy committee ran through their list of priorities for 2025-2026: Continuing Library Network Aid, Bill S4520 for Fair Practices for Libraries Purchasing Electronic Materials, PILOT, S2316/A1712 which requires public school districts ensure all NJ students have access to trained school library media specialists, additional construction funding for NJ libraries, AI Education and Training, and Reduction of Healthcare Costs.

October Help Desk Statistics – 426 tickets:



Statistical Summary Data:

	October	September	Change
Total Bib Records	1,065,640	1,064,427	0.11%
Total Items	3,411,109	3,423,993	-0.38%
Check Outs	353,635	359,010	-1.50%
Unique Borrowers	45,682	48,056	-4.94%
Holds Placed	44,152	46,897	-5.85%
New Bibs Added	7,255	3,581	102.60%
New Items Added	14,008	10,046	39.44%
New Patrons Added	5,477	5,302	3.30%

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric P. Lozauskas
Executive Director