



# Online Lending Library

Presented by: Neha Saju

December 2, 2020



Institute for Women's Leadership

The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

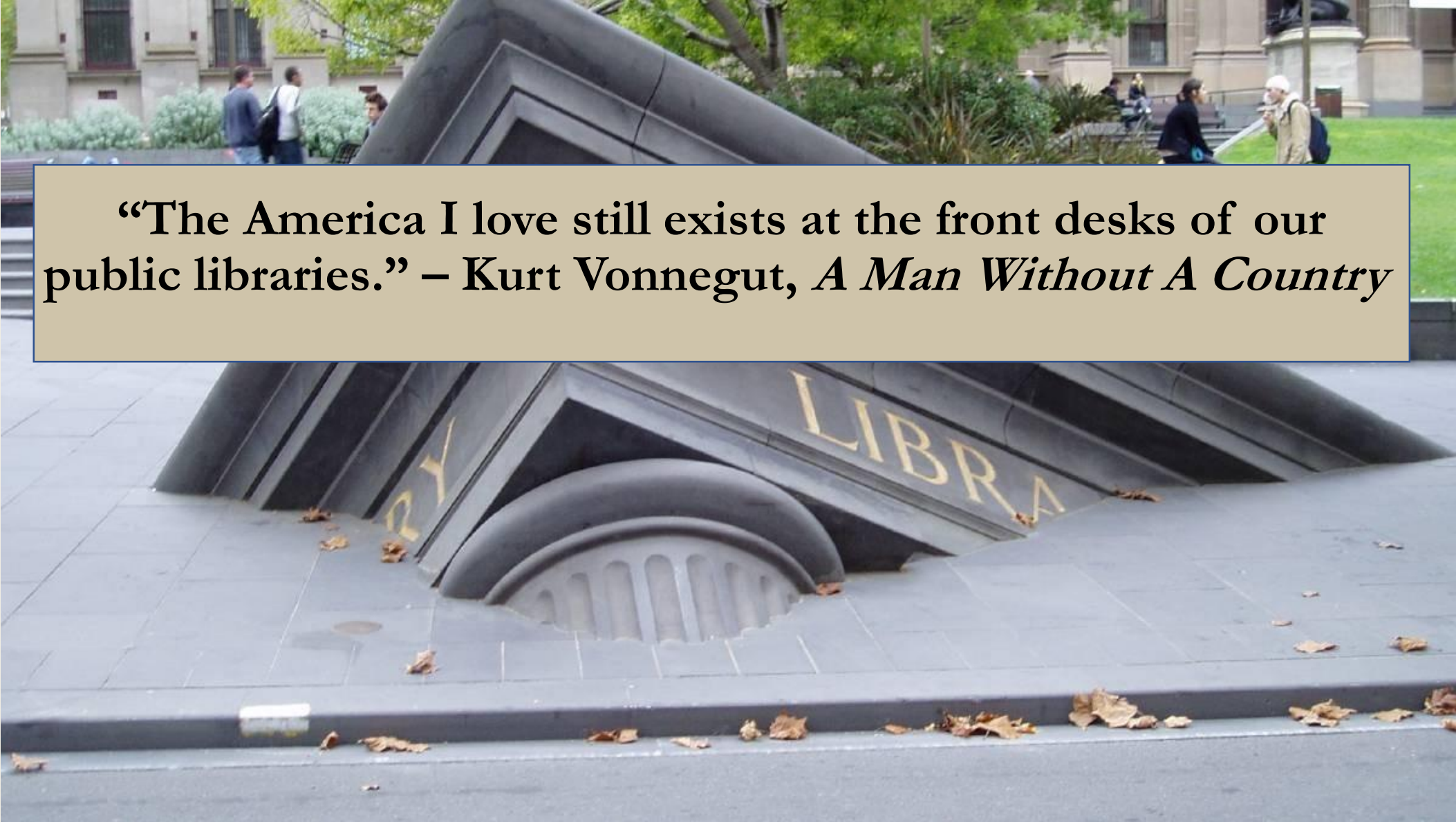
Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to *practice* leadership *through* action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women's Leadership's website at <http://iwl.rutgers.edu>.







**“The America I love still exists at the front desks of our public libraries.” – Kurt Vonnegut, *A Man Without A Country***



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A photograph of a grand, historic library interior. The room features high ceilings with a large skylight and a chandelier. Rows of bookshelves line the walls, and study desks with chairs are arranged in the foreground. A person is visible in the distance, walking down a central aisle. The overall atmosphere is one of quiet study and intellectual pursuit.

# About the Online Lending Library

# The Problem

The number of books in a child's home is important to their progress in school and success later in life. During the pandemic, as schools and libraries close their doors, less and less reading material is made available to children.





# Mission Statement

The Online Lending Library (OLL) is an organization that allows students to choose and keep the novels that interest them. Serving elementary, middle, and high school student, OLL provides books to interested students in the Central Jersey area.



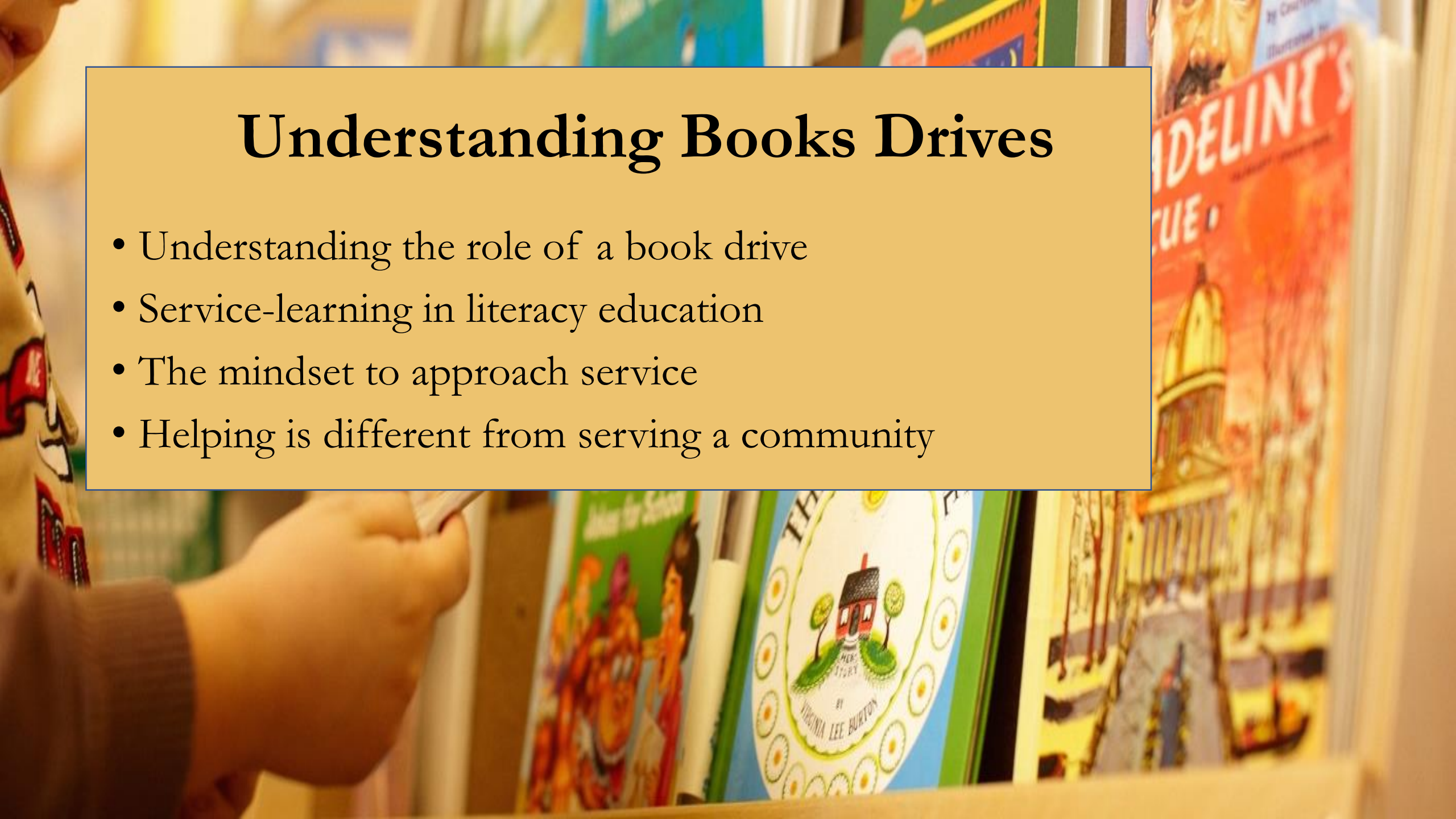
The image shows a grand, multi-story library interior. The ceiling is high and features a large skylight and a decorative chandelier. The walls are lined with tall, dark wood bookshelves filled with books. In the foreground, there are rows of study desks with chairs. A person is visible walking in the distance. The overall atmosphere is one of a well-lit, spacious, and historic library.

# Intellectual Foundation



# Understanding Books Drives

- Understanding the role of a book drive
- Service-learning in literacy education
- The mindset to approach service
- Helping is different from serving a community



# The Poverty Gap in Education

- Poor children don't struggle in school because of their families -- they struggle because of poverty.
- “Cultural Deprivation”
- Long-standing stereotypes that blamed poor families for their misfortunes.
- More than 40 percent of children live in low-income families





Percent of U.S. adults reading books and literature, by demographic subgroup: 2012, 2017					
				<b>Books<sup>1</sup></b>	
	2017 U.S. adult population (millions)	2012	2017	Percentage point (pp) change	Statistically significant change
<b>All adults</b>	246.7	54.6%	52.7%	-1.9 pp	No
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	119.0	44.7%	44.3%	-0.4 pp	No
Female	127.7	63.7%	60.5%	-3.2 pp	Yes
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>					
Hispanic	39.4	36.4%	32.2%	-4.2 pp	No
White	157.6	60.6%	59.6%	-1 pp	No
African American	29.1	46.4%	46.6%	+0.1 pp	No
Asian	14.5	48.5%	44.8%	-3.7 pp	No
Other	5.7	52.5%	53.7%	+1.1 pp	No
<b>Age</b>					
18-24	29.7	51.8%	47.3%	-4.5 pp	No
25-34	44.0	54.9%	52.6%	-2.4 pp	No
35-44	40.0	53.0%	53.6%		No
45-54	41.8	53.3%	50.5%	-2.8 pp	No
55-64	41.7	56.6%	53.6%	-3 pp	No
65-74	29.4	61.0%	57.2%	-3.8 pp	No
75+	20.1	52.2%	55.4%	+3.1 pp	No
<b>Highest level of education</b>					
Grade school	9.1	21.6%	19.1%	-2.5 pp	No
Some high school	16.5	27.7%	26.7%	-1 pp	No
High school diploma	72.4	41.2%	39.9%	-1.4 pp	No
Some college	69.2	59.8%	55.2%	-4.6 pp	Yes
Bachelor's degree	51.2	72.5%	68.5%	-4 pp	Yes
Graduate or professional degree	28.4	81.7%	78.6%	-3.1 pp	No

<sup>1</sup> Includes only books not required for work or school.

Fig 1. Demographic breakdown of Adult Readers (Pinsker)



# Connection to Feminist Leadership



# Women and Education

In early education, for a girl to be rated as equally capable as her male classmate, she not only has to achieve equal academic success, she has to be seen as working harder than him (Cimpian).



# The Shift to Online Learning could Worsen Educational Inequality



- “Digital Divide”
- Trauma of the Pandemic
- What online learning means for students



A photograph of a grand, ornate library interior. The room features high ceilings with a large skylight and a chandelier. Rows of bookshelves line the walls, and study desks with chairs are arranged in the foreground. A person is visible walking in the distance. A semi-transparent orange rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing the text "Insights Gained".

# Insights Gained

# Timeline

Met frequently with my mentor to adjust the parameters of my project

*September*

Identified two organizations to reach out to: Youth Empowerment Services and I-RISE

*October*

Developed a Facebook Page to display the books collected

*November*

Created a poster and project summary to reach out to organizations & reached out





# Online Lending Library

@LendingLibrary.NJ · Library

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## About [See All](#)

The Online Lending Library allows children (K-12) from communities around NJ to receive a free book. Intended to serve low-income communities, students (or their parents) will be able to leave a comment under which book/series they'd like sent to them!

- 0 people follow this
- [Send Message](#)
- [lendinglibrary.nj@gmail.com](mailto:lendinglibrary.nj@gmail.com)
- [Library · Education](#)

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Online Lending Library updated their website address.

The Online Lending Library allows children (K-12) from communities around NJ to receive a free book. Intended to serve low-income communities, students (or their parents) will be able to leave a comment under which book/series they'd like sent to them!

- 0 people follow this
- [Send Message](#)
- [lendinglibrary.nj@gmail.com](mailto:lendinglibrary.nj@gmail.com)
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## Page Transparency [See All](#)

Facebook is showing information to help you better understand the purpose of a Page. See actions taken by the people who manage and post content.



## Add Your Business to Facebook

Showcase your work, create ads and connect with customers or supporters.

[Create Page](#)

Online Lending Library updated their website address.

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**Online Lending Library** 3d

Welcome to the Online Lending Library! On this page, students and parents will be able to claim which book or series of books they would like to receive. Simply comment under the post of which book you would like to get (only one book/series per student) with your email. The official email for the Online Lending Library ([lendinglibrary.nj@gmail.com](mailto:lendinglibrary.nj@gmail.com)) will then reach out to you with details. There are no shipping costs associated since this organization is currently eligible for a grant from the Institute of Women's Leadership, but there may be delays in shipping because of the pandemic. All books will be properly sanitized before shipping. Please comment any questions below or email them to the official Lending Library email. If you are interested in donating, please reach out! Thank you all for participating!

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

**Online Lending Library** updated their profile picture. 3d

# Additional Materials Created



**Online Lending Library**

Collecting books for children in New Brunswick, Highland Park, and Newark.

MORE INFO LINKED HERE:  
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LENDINGLIBRARY.NJ](https://www.facebook.com/LENDINGLIBRARY.NJ)

EMAIL: [LENDINGLIBRARY.NJ@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LENDINGLIBRARY.NJ@GMAIL.COM)

The poster features a dark background with yellow and purple accents. At the top, the title 'Online Lending Library' is written in a large, bold, yellow font. Below the title, there are two circular icons: one with a woman's face and one with a man's face, both in purple and yellow. The text 'Collecting books for children in New Brunswick, Highland Park, and Newark.' is centered below the icons. At the bottom, there are two yellow book icons and a small illustration of a woman on the left and a man on the right. The contact information is provided in yellow text.

Online Lending Library Project  
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## Project Summary

The Online Lending Library will be a resource for students in the New Brunswick, Newark, and Highland Park areas. Because of COVID-19, schools are operating under remote instruction and libraries across the state are functioning with limited capacity. Having access to literature at home is foundational for a child's early education and important for an individual's continued education. This project seeks to distribute books to students who are interested in reading.

The Online Lending Library will use a Facebook page to post pictures and descriptions of books that have been donated for the project. The project will work with community organizations to advertise the book donations. Students and their parents can write in the name of the individual picking up the book (either the name of the student or parent) and the name of their town below the post of the book they would like on the Facebook page. I will work with three community organizations (one in New Brunswick, one in Newark, and one in Highland Park) where children will be able to pick up the books they have chosen. All through the month of November and early December, children will be able to select the books that they would like to own. By the mid- December, I can bring selected books to interested community organizations so families will be able to pick up a free book (or book series) in time for the holidays using a staggered pick-up schedule. There will be no cost for books or transportation, as this project is being funded completely by the Rutgers Institute for Women's Leadership.

The individual behind this project is a Rutgers junior named Neha Saju. Neha is majoring in History and Political Science and hopes to go to graduate school to get a Masters in Public



# Operating during a Pandemic

- Importance of checking social media updates
- Signing up for a newsletter to better understand the needs of the organization





# Future Impact



# Moving forward!

- Expanding the number of available books for children
  - Focusing on getting more books in Spanish
- Pursuing other routes outside of community organizations
  - Public Libraries (reaching out to 2 systems)
  - Orphanages (1 organization)
  - Homeless Shelters (1 organization)



A photograph of a grand, historic library interior. The room features high ceilings with a large skylight and a chandelier. Rows of bookshelves line the walls, and study desks with chairs are arranged in the foreground. A person is visible in the distance, walking down a central aisle. The overall atmosphere is one of quiet study and intellectual pursuit.

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