

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY IS 2011 SHUBERT LIBRARY EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER; GENESEE VALLEY EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP IS RUNNER UP

The New York State Regents Advisory Council on Libraries is pleased to announce that the 2011 Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award has been awarded to The New York Public Library (NYPL) for their project entitled, "*Homework NYC*". The 2011 Runner-Up for the 2011 Shubert Award is the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership (BOCES) School Library System.

The awards will be officially presented in November at the 2011 New York Library Association Conference in Saratoga Springs. As the 2011 Shubert Award winner, The New York Public Library will receive \$1,000, which is graciously donated by the Friends of the New York State Library. As the 2011 Shubert Award runner-up, The Genesee Valley Educational Partnership will receive a plaque.

HOMWORK NYC

This award-winning project provides homework help with an interactive Dial-A-Teacher App. The *Homework NYC* project was funded by a three-year federal National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and was headed by Shauntee Burns, Outreach Specialist. Ms. Burns worked closely with youth services staff in NYPL, Brooklyn and Queens libraries, as well as the New York City Department of Education, to produce a high-quality web presence for students, teachers and parents.

Four nights a week, the online program connects students and teachers in real time through a secure digital whiteboard. A student types his/her question, uses a mouse or stylus to draw a math problem (for instance) on the screen or imports documents such as a scanned page of homework to the whiteboard. A teacher instantly sees the problem and provides feedback by typing a suggestion, adding to the drawing or pointing the student to other websites.

Students played a role in the creation of the App, providing librarians with information about their homework needs and practices and made suggestions about how libraries could better support them. Focus groups of teens were held in all five boroughs and students were encouraged to complete online and paper surveys. The project's website (www.homeworknyc.org) provides information for librarians, teachers, parents and students. Information on *Homework NYC* is also available on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and TeacherTube. Ms. Burns has demonstrated the project at schools, libraries and community centers across New York City.

GENESEE VALLEY EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

The Shubert Award runner up, Genesee Valley Educational Partnership (BOCES) School Library System, created a regional school library system union catalog

FiveSystems.org for the five school library systems of the greater Rochester area. The 5 Systems site was developed by the [School Library System](#) of the [Genesee Valley Educational Partnership](#) in 2010 in collaboration with the other four School Library Systems and the [Rochester Regional Library Council](#). Local development and open source software allowed the five systems to provide a regional catalog to support resource sharing while at the same time lowering costs.

This new regional school library union catalog holds about four million records from some 356 school libraries in the greater Rochester region, facilitating 16,763 point-to-point interlibrary loans annually. The new interface is user-friendly for students and teachers as well as librarians with easy navigation and simplified searching.

Members of the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries 2011 Shubert Award Committee are Sara Kelly Johns, Chair; Louise Sherby and Mary Muller. The Committee was uniformly enthusiastic in its decision to honor The New York Public Library's submission as an excellent example of the "spirit of the Shubert award".

The Joseph F. Shubert Excellence Award is given annually to recognize the achievements of small, medium and large libraries and library consortia in New York State. The Award honors libraries or library consortia that have taken significant steps within the past two years to improve the quality of library service to users. For more information about the Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award and the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries, visit: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/advscns/rac/index.html> or contact the Office of the State Librarian at (518) 474-5930.