Library Systems

The Executive and the Legislature created library systems to work at regional levels to improve local library programs and services for all New Yorkers. Systems offer continuing education, cooperative technology, and resource sharing programs no one library could afford on its own. Systems use State aid to support general operations and systems work with local libraries to assist with staff training, procure library materials, technology, and other resources.

The State Library’s Division of Library Development works in partnership with the library systems to develop statewide and regional services that meet local needs. The Division acts in an oversight and advisory capacity and provides staff regional liaisons to all 72 library systems, serving over 7,000 libraries.

23 Public Library Systems
Find your public library and system at
http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/pls

40 School Library Systems
Find your system’s website at
http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/sls

The New York State Library, working in partnership with the 72 library systems, brings cost-effective, modern library services to the millions of people who use New York’s 7,000 academic, public, school and special libraries.

For More Information

New York State Library Website
www.nysl.nysed.gov

Office of the State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries

New York State Library
Cultural Education Center
Empire State Plaza
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What is the Division of Library Development?

The New York State Library’s Division of Library Development has these responsibilities:

- to provide leadership and support for improving library services for all New Yorkers;
- to provide technical advice and assistance to, for, and about libraries; and
- to serve as an oversight agency for library programs.

The State Library is located in the Office of Cultural Education within the New York State Education Department and is headed by the State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries. The State Library provides information and library services to the people of New York through its Research Library and Division of Library Development. In its leadership role, the State Library works in partnership with the State’s 72 library systems to provide cost-effective, high quality library services to the millions who use New York’s 7,000 school, public, academic, and special libraries.

The Division of Library Development provides expert leadership, funding, and training for New York’s libraries and library systems. Staff members work with librarians, trustees, school administrators, public officials, and local leaders to solve problems and find new ways of making library services and resources available to local communities. The Division staff:

- are experts in Education Law and Commissioner’s Regulations relating to libraries and library systems;
- are a strong voice for New York’s libraries with State and Federal government agencies that impact library services;
- manage more than $130 million in State and Federal Aid to New York’s libraries; and
- enable libraries to take full advantage of federal and private funding programs like LSTA funds and E-Rate Telecommunications Discounts.

The New York State Education Department

Research Library
Includes the Talking Book and Braille Library

Division of Library Development

Major Activities

Eight major activities contribute to the fulfillment of the Division of Library Development’s responsibilities. The Division staff:

- coordinate statewide library services, such as the NOVELNY pilot project, early literacy, summer reading, technology, preservation and other initiatives that benefit more than 7,000 libraries;
- work in partnership with the State’s 72 library systems to provide leadership, technical advice, training and assistance for the establishment and improvement of library service in all areas of the State;
- provide oversight and monitoring for library programs;
- manage State and Federal Aid programs for libraries;
- certify (license) public librarians;
- charter (incorporate) and register (approve) public libraries;
- develop effective communication with all types of libraries and organizations; and
- collect, analyze and disseminate data for planning, evaluation and decision-making.

More information about the following programs, projects and funding opportunities is available on the New York State Library website at www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev.

- Adult and Family Literacy Program
- Broadband Initiatives
- Certification of Public Librarians
- Chartering and Registration of Public Libraries
- Conservation/Preservation of Fragile Library Materials
- Coordinated Collection Development Aid for Academic Libraries
- Coordinated Outreach Services
- Documentary Heritage Preservation Services (DHPSNY)
- E-Rate (Universal Service for Telecommunications Discounts Program)
- Hospital Library Services Program
- Indian Libraries
- Institution Library Services
- Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Federal Program
- Medical Information Services Program
- New York Online Virtual Electronic Library (NOVELNY)
- New York’s Libraries Information Network (NYLINE)
- Public Library Districts How-To Kit
- Ready to Read at New York Libraries
- Regional Bibliographic Databases and Interlibrary Resources Sharing Program
- State Aid for Library Construction
- State Aid to Assist Libraries and Support Public Library Systems, Reference and Research Library Resources Councils, and School Library Systems
- Summer Reading at New York Libraries
- Statistics about Libraries
- Transforming Teen Services
- Trustee Education

www.novelnewyork.org

www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev