

GATES LIBRARY GRANT INITIATIVE

New York State Library “Rural Sustainability Project”
Partnering with the Gates Foundation



The New York State Library participated in a joint WebJunction and Gates Library Foundation program entitled “Rural Library Sustainability Project.” The State Library worked in partnership with PULISDO and the Mid-Hudson Library System to implement this statewide project.

Purpose of the Project:

In answer to the special challenges faced by rural and small libraries in sustaining their public access computing, the Rural Library Sustainability Project supported small and rural libraries in implementing community-specific action plans to sustain their computer services. More information about the project can be found at www.webjunction.org

The New York State project involved a series of ten regional day-long workshops starting in April 2006 and ending in October 2006. Ms. Mary Ann Stiefvater coordinated workshop scheduling and conducted the training.

Library staff working in public libraries that serve populations under 25,000 were eligible to attend.

Project Goals:

- Increase the number of small and rural librarians developing and implementing action plans for sustaining and expanding public access computing in their communities
- Facilitate a forum of selected workshop participants (at least from each state) to meet at the ALA annual conference and discuss the results of their workshops, share best practices, and continue to develop action plans for sustainability
- Create an online community through WebJunction that allows continued sharing and collaboration between workshop participants
- Increase the number of librarians participating in WebJunction activities so they become connected into a larger community and are able to take advantage of an information network

Workshop Participants Activities:

- Developed an action plan to actively sustain public access computing in their libraries
- Selected a minimum of two activities in their action plan to implement in the near future
- Shared their workshop experiences with their co-workers
- Participated in WebJunction’s online community
- Participated in an evaluation process through completion of online surveys

Workshop Locations and Schedule

Library Systems	Workshop Location	Address	Date	Time
Suffolk / Nassau	Suffolk Cooperative Library System	627 North Sunrise Service Road Bellport 11713	4/11/2006	9:30-4:30
Ramapo Catskill / Westchester	Newburgh Free Library	124 Grand Street Newburgh 12550	4/19/2006	9:30-4:30
Mid-Hudson / Upper Hudson	Mid-Hudson Library System Auditorium	105 Market Street Poughkeepsie 12601	5/3/2006	9:00-4:30
CEFLS / SALS	Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce	7061 State Route 9 Plattsburgh 12901	5/8/2006	9:30-4:30
North Country	Empire Ballroom Best Western Carriage House Inn	300 Washington Street Watertown 13601	5/16/2006	9:30-4:30
Southern Tier/ Pioneer	Southern Tier LS Service Center	9424 Scott Road Painted Post 14830	7/13/2006	9:30-4:30
Finger Lakes / Four County	Borg Warner Room Tompkins County Public Library	101 E. Green Street Ithaca 14850	8/24/2006	9:30-3:30
Chautauqua-Cattaraugus	James Prendergast Library	509 Cherry Street Jamestown 14701	9/27/2006	9:30-4:30
Nioga / Buffalo-Erie / Monroe	Orleans-Niagara BOCES Training Center	4124 Saunders Settlement Rd. Sanborn 14132	10/4/2006	9:30-4:30
Mid-York / MVLA / Onondaga	Mid-York Meeting Room	Mid York Library System Lincoln Ave Utica 13502	10/25/2006	9:30-4:30

The Project Director for the “Rural Library Sustainability Project” is Linda Todd, Library Development Specialist at the Division of Library Development, New York State Library, phone 518-486-4858 or email mtodd@mail.nysed.gov.

The NYS project coordinators and trainers are: Mary Ann Stiefvater, phone 315-794-5122 or email stiefvaterdist@hotmail.com and Andrea Stiefvater, phone 315-404-4006 or email a.stiefvater@att.net.



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