

## Facts About PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS

- Serve over 19 million people statewide
- Serve 755 public libraries with over 1,100 outlets, including over 300 neighborhood branches, 7 bookmobiles, 60 reading centers and other community outlets extending services to people in correctional facilities, nursing homes, urban and rural areas
- Facilitate over 16 million interlibrary loan requests annually
- Provide access to e-books, NOVELNY and other electronic resources
- Provide professional development and training opportunities for library staff and trustees
- Operate multi-county computer networks and automated catalogs of resources
- Connect with the New York State Library, school library systems, reference and research library resources councils, and school, academic and special libraries for access to specialized resources
- Serve as a liaison to the New York State Library and the New York State Education Department

## THREE TYPES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS

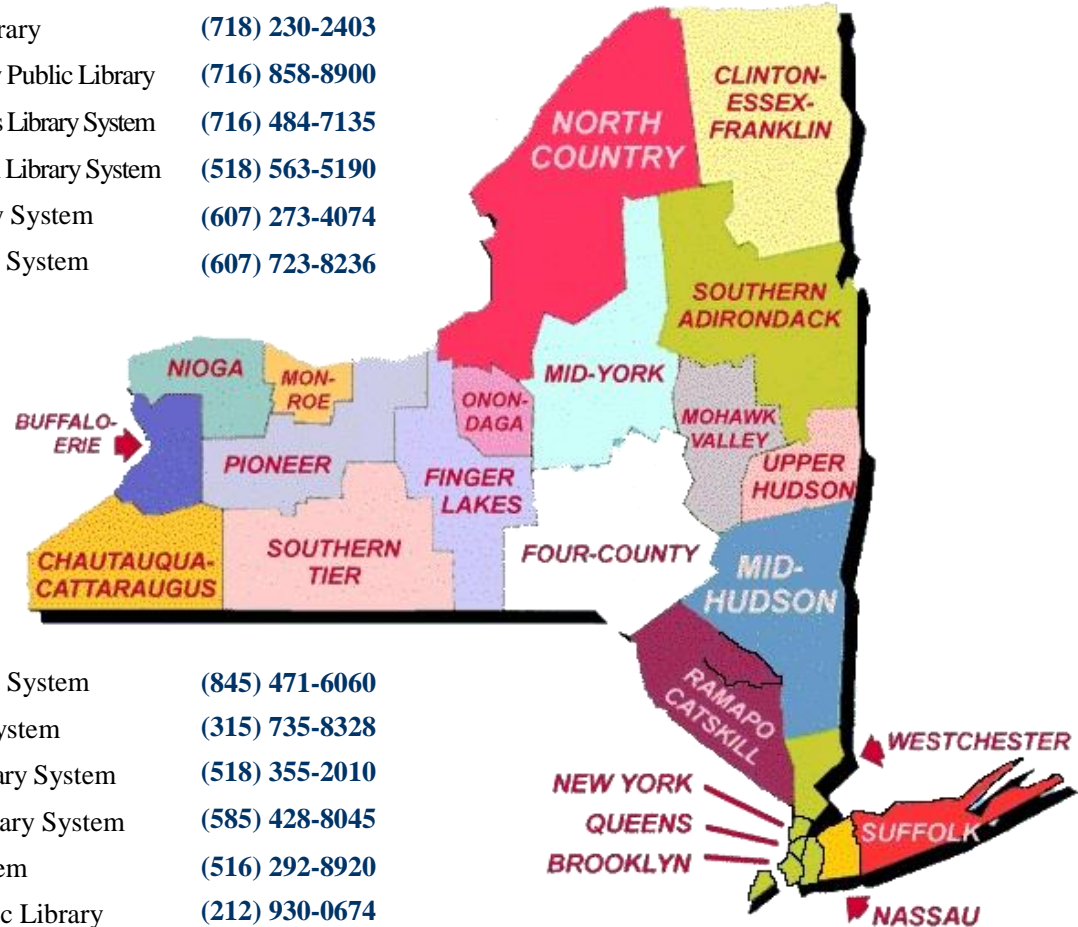
**CONSOLIDATED:** (3) Chartered as a single entity under a board of trustees (Brooklyn, The New York Public Library, and Queens Borough Public Library).

**FEDERATED:** (4) Created by action of the board or boards of supervisors or legislature of the county or counties involved while member libraries retain their own charters (Buffalo & Erie, Clinton-Essex-Franklin, Monroe, and Onondaga).

**COOPERATIVE:** (16) An association created by agreement of boards of chartered member libraries, which retain their autonomy.

## NEW YORK STATE'S PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS

- Brooklyn Public Library (718) 230-2403
- Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (716) 858-8900
- Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System (716) 484-7135
- Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System (518) 563-5190
- Finger Lakes Library System (607) 273-4074
- Four County Library System (607) 723-8236



- Mid-Hudson Library System (845) 471-6060
- Mid-York Library System (315) 735-8328
- Mohawk Valley Library System (518) 355-2010
- Monroe County Library System (585) 428-8045
- Nassau Library System (516) 292-8920
- The New York Public Library (212) 930-0674
- Nioga Library System (716) 434-6167
- North Country Library System (315) 782-5540
- Onondaga County Public Library (315) 435-1900

- Pioneer Library System (585) 394-8260
- Queens Borough Public Library (718) 990-0700
- Ramapo Catskill Library System (845) 243-3747
- Southern Adirondack Library System (518) 584-7300
- Southern Tier Library System (607) 962-3141
- Suffolk Cooperative Library System (631) 286-1600
- Upper Hudson Library System (518) 437-9880
- Westchester Library System (914) 674-3600

Find your public library at:  
[www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/publibs](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/publibs)

## PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS

### Provide

- *Free direct access* to resources and services of all system member libraries
- *Support for a central library* that provides extended public hours and a strong research and reference collection
- *Support for the latest technologies* and telecommunication services including e-books, the New York Online Virtual Electronic Library (NOVELNY) and other electronic resources
- *Interlibrary loan*, daily delivery and other resource sharing services
- *Special outreach and literacy services* for persons with challenging conditions and life situations, the institutionalized, underserved and unserved communities, and people who have difficulty reading, writing, and speaking English
- *Cooperative grants administration and grant writing assistance* to member libraries
- *Access to free talking books*, braille materials, and playback equipment from the State Library and The New York Public Library
- *Programs that assist local communities* without libraries to obtain library services
- *Staff expertise* in areas such as library law, library budgeting and management, technology, collection development, grants, youth services, outreach and more
- *Professional development* and training for library staff and trustees



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the late 1950's, the State Legislature and Governor authorized the establishment of public library systems in Education Law. Governance and function are established in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. Each public library system is governed by a board of trustees.

The State created library systems to expand the resources of all local libraries enabling them to buy services and share resources cooperatively. Most of the 23 public library systems are supported entirely by State Aid. Systems qualify for aid based on an approved five-year plan of service and annual budgets report. A portion of the State Aid is direct aid for member libraries.

Public library systems facilitate sharing of library resources so all New Yorkers have access to information and library services that advance and enhance their lives as workers, citizens, family members, and lifelong learners. Systems provide cooperative programs and services that help local communities take advantage of economies of scale. System staff provide professional expertise that helps local libraries achieve their full potential.

### For more information:

Visit the New York State Library web site at: [www.nysl.nysed.gov](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov)



Call the Division of Library Development at the New York State Library: (518) 474-7890

Visit the New York State Library's NOVELNY web site at: [www.novelnewyork.org](http://www.novelnewyork.org)



The University of the State of New York  
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
New York State Library •  
Division of Library Development  
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## NEW YORK STATE'S PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS

*Improving information literacy,  
educational achievement,  
economic development,  
and quality of life for  
all New Yorkers.*

