State Education Department

Chancellor Merryl H. Tisch Commissioner David M. Steiner

New York State Library: An Overview

The **New York State Library** provides information and library services to New Yorkers through its **Research Library** and the **Division of Library Development**.

- The **Research Library** is the principal library for the people and government of New York State and serves the research needs of individuals, schools and universities, and the business and scientific communities. With over 20 million items and a strong focus on the culture and history of New York State, the Library circulates books to individuals onsite and through interlibrary loan to public, academic, school and special libraries statewide. One of the 125 largest research libraries in North America, the Research Library is the only state library to qualify for membership in the Association of Research Libraries.

  Visitors to the library access the comprehensive local history and genealogy collection, law library, federal and state document collection, and use free internet and wireless service. All New York residents 18 years and older may apply for a Resident Borrower's Card.

  The Library provides all New Yorkers with access from their local library, home, school, or office to **NOVELNY**, the pilot project for a statewide Internet library of health, information, reference materials, full text magazines and newspaper articles, and scholarly publications. **NOVELNY** can be accessed with a local library card or a valid New York State driver license at http://www.novelnewyork.org/ .

  The **Talking Book and Braille Library** is a regional library for the National Library Service and is part of the Research Library. TBBL serves more than 40,000 disabled adults and children in 55 upstate counties.

- The **Division of Library Development** works in partnership with the state's 73 library systems to bring cost-effective, high-quality library services to New Yorkers via the state's 7,000 school, public, academic, and special libraries. Staff experts 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 their community. Library Development administers more than $100 million in state and federal aid to New York's libraries and helps New York's libraries take full advantage of federal and private funding programs like E-rate telecommunications discounts and Gates Library Foundation grants.

- **New York's Libraries – A Primer**

  Library systems work at regional levels to improve local library programs and services for all New Yorkers. Systems offer continuing education and resource sharing programs no one library could afford on its own. New York has 3 types of library systems – **Public Library Systems** (23); **Reference and Research Library Resources Systems** (9); and **School Library Systems** (41). New York has 73 library systems.

  Public libraries are established and funded locally by municipalities, districts or associations. There are 755 public libraries with over 1,000 outlets serving New Yorkers. A public library district is a type of public library in which the community elects the library's governing board and votes on the library's budget.

  School, academic and special libraries are at the heart of their parent institutions. Every K-12 public school is required to have a library. The academic library is the center of learning on college and university campuses. Over 1,600 special libraries serve employees of government, hospitals, law firms, businesses and others.

For information, contact::
Bernard A. Margolis, New York State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries
Phone: (518) 474-5930; **Fax:** (518) 486-6880; **Email:** bmargolis@mail.nysed.gov ; **Web site:** http://www.nysl.nysed.gov

10/09