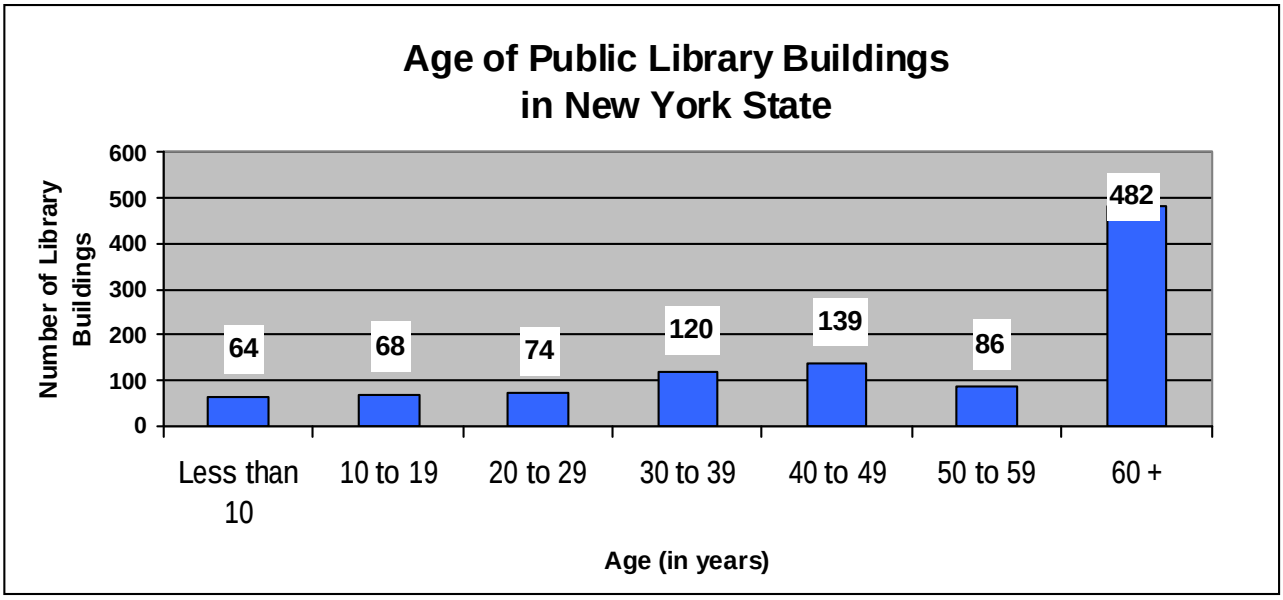
PUBLIC LIBRARY
CONSTRUCTION and RENOVATION

What are the construction and renovation needs of New York's public libraries?

- **More than 725 public library facilities** in New York State need new construction and/or building renovations – **for a total estimated cost of $2.53 billion.**
- Buildings have become cramped, outdated, and rundown – **482 library buildings are at least 60 years old.**
- Most **cannot meet new standards of energy efficiency** and green construction and **lack necessary space** for growing collections, computers, and programming.
- **Hundreds of public libraries cannot accommodate new computer technology** due to inadequate wiring.
- **Over 30% of public libraries cannot accommodate** individuals in wheelchairs with access to all areas.
- **One-time capital appropriations** totaling $56 million over the past four years only begin to address these needs.

Library buildings are cramped and outdated



Data from *2008 Annual Report for Public and Association Libraries*, New York State Library.

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What Can Be Done to Meet Construction Needs?

One-time capital appropriations totaling $56 million over the past four years are positive first steps, but only begin to address the great need for construction and renovation of New York's community libraries.

- **State support for public library construction and renovation will ensure New Yorkers have safe, accessible, and energy efficient libraries with sufficient room for growing collections, computers, and programming.**

↑ Leaking & Water Damaged Roofs Compromising the Integrity of the Structure ↑

↑ Disintegrating Historic Exterior Element ↑ Cramped Interior Public Space

How do I learn more about public library construction and renovation?

- Contact your Public Library System Director.
- Visit the **New York State Library** Website at **www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/construc/index.html**
- Contact Bernard A. Margolis, New York State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries, at (518) 474-5930 or via email at bmargolis@mail.nysed.gov

All pictures are of public libraries in New York State

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