



NY 3Rs ASSOCIATION, INC.  
www.ny3rs.org

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*Capital District Library Council (CDLC) – Albany  
Central New York Library Resources Council (CLRC) - Syracuse  
Long Island Library Resources Council (LILRC) – Long Island  
Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO) – NYC  
Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN) – Potsdam  
Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) – Rochester  
South Central Regional Library Council (SCRLC) – Ithaca  
Southeastern New York Library Resources Council (SENYLRC) – Highland  
Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) - Buffalo*

**Testimony of the NY3Rs Association, Inc.  
Assembly Committee on Libraries and Educational Technology  
November 29, 2012**

My name is Jean Sheviak, and I am Executive Director of the Capital District Library Council, one of nine reference and research resources systems that comprise the NY 3Rs Association. We have been serving the research needs of New York's library community for more than forty years.

The New York 3Rs Association members currently include 276 college and university libraries; 460 hospital, museum, corporate, and other specialized libraries; as well as library systems representing more than 5,200 school and public libraries. Our job is to help all these organizations work together both locally and statewide to achieve measurable economies of scale and a significantly increased quality of services.

Our work is primarily funded through state aid to libraries, which has been cut 20% from 2008 levels. These cuts have taken us to 1996 funding levels.

The topic of today's hearing is the impact of the state budget on library services. We can assure you that those cuts are doing great harm. As examples: reduced system staff means fewer training sessions; curtailed resource sharing means no inter-sharing of library materials for researchers; and fewer electronic resources means more students using Google for their research rather than peer-reviewed scholarship. We know for a fact that fewer books are now being acquired for academic libraries; fewer research materials are available for health care professionals; and far fewer local history collections are being digitized. Researchers and those preparing for those all-important technology jobs need to be trained and supported by information professionals and not left to founder in the morass of the internet, but we can't do that on 1996 funding levels.

My message to you is simple: the effects of these cuts are real. The danger today is that the cuts are becoming institutionalized and permanent. Every year we wait to see restoration of funds means another year when these cuts become the "new normal," and resources we need to succeed in our technology-based world are permanently lost.

We in the NY 3Rs have been doing things right all along: we collaborate locally, regionally, and statewide to save money and improve services. We are models for the efficiencies of shared services being encouraged throughout government. And our reward for that has been a 20% cut in funding.

We appreciate the committee's work. We understand we have good friends on the committee and appreciate their support and hard work on behalf of libraries. The NY 3Rs Association encourages the committee to recommend and work for restoration of state aid to libraries to its 2008 amount: \$102 million. We understand that is a large percentage increase, but it is also a very modest dollar increase.