
What are the origins of NOVELNY?

The Board of Regents, at their July 13, 2000, meeting, adopted the final report of the Regents Commission on Library Services, *Meeting the Needs of all New Yorkers: Library Service in the New Century*, as Regents policy. Recommendation one in this report is to “Create NOVEL, the New York Online Virtual Electronic Library, to deliver high-quality, reliable digital information to all New Yorkers.”

What is NOVELNY?

NOVELNY is a pilot program for New York’s Statewide Internet Library that provides access to electronic information not available through open, public web sites. NOVELNY is provided to all New Yorkers through over 5000 libraries at the library, or remotely using a public library card or with a valid New York Driver License or Non-Driver ID.

What is included in the NOVEL Implementation Plan?

NOVEL: Libraries Expanding Information Access for New Yorkers in the New Century, the Final NOVEL Implementation Plan translates many ideas into a single written source that provides the foundation on which we will construct NOVEL. To do this, the Implementation Plan recommends five NOVEL initiatives, which offer the basis of a program that will greatly expand access to bibliographic and full-text electronic information for New Yorkers. The five NOVEL initiatives are as follows:

- ◆ Increase access to electronic resources on a statewide basis.
- ◆ Expand resource sharing in New York State to improve electronic and traditional access to library resources for all users.
- ◆ Develop a coordinated program for the digitization of information resources in New York libraries and other repositories.
- ◆ Enhance the availability of high-speed telecommunications for New York’s libraries across all regions of the state.
- ◆ Develop a NOVEL user interface (or portal) that integrates the services and resources brought together under NOVEL.

The Plan also recommended the creation of a NOVEL Steering Committee to organize the ongoing work of NOVEL.

What is the NOVELNY Steering Committee?

The NOVELNY Steering Committee comprises library leaders from a broad spectrum of libraries and systems throughout the State. They have the responsibility of implementing the NOVEL plan, *NOVEL New York Online Virtual Electronic Library: Libraries Expanding Information Access for New Yorkers in the New Century*, to (1) guide electronic services in the State's libraries in the 21st century, and (2) ensure quality information services to all residents.

How can I obtain more information about the NOVELNY Pilot Project or participate in NOVELNY discussions and development?

If you need additional information or would like to know more about the NOVELNY Pilot Project, visit the NOVELNY website at <http://www.novelnewyork.org>. You can also sign up for the NOVEL-DB e-mail list to stay current on NOVELNY discussions and development. Instructions for subscribing to NOVEL-DB are posted on the NOVELNY Web site.

Members of the NOVELNY Steering Committee

Chair:

Sarah Conrad Weisman, Associate Dean of Learning Resources, Corning Community College

Members:

Susan Bartle, Director, Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES School Library System
Shirley Bower, Head, Wallace Library, Rochester Institute of Technology
Tim Burke, Assistant Director, Albany Public Library
Beverly Choltco-Devlin, Reference Consultant, Mid-York Library System
Darrin Conroy, Library Director, NYS Small Business Development Center
Susan Annah Currie, Glen G. Bartle Library, State University of New York at Binghamton
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Peg Elliott, Librarian, Information Services, Onondaga County Public Library
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