



State University of New York Librarian Association Position Statement on NOVELNY Resources

Background: The NYS Division of Library Development has signaled the elimination of funding for the NOVEL NY resources that currently serve all NYS students and citizens by the end of 2024 due to financial constraints. Access to these resources through NOVELNY ensures access to information for all New Yorkers, regardless of financial, physical, or geographical limitations. In today's world, the availability of reliable and unbiased information is indispensable. Students and staff require accessible and trustworthy resources to navigate through the vast sea of data and locate accurate and valid information. SUNYLA strongly believes that such a decision would significantly impair our students' ability to access essential library resources for research and instruction. Moreover, we firmly assert that the loss of NOVEL NY would lead to a grave disparity in access to high-quality reference resources and hinder students' capacity to participate knowledgeably in a democratic society.

SUNYLA's Position: NOVELNY has been a pillar of knowledge and information, serving as a networked library that empowers librarians to utilize their expertise in curating relevant and reliable resources. Through its local library connection, NOVELNY extends its benefits to all students and citizens, regardless of their personal access to computers or other technological devices. This inclusivity is vital to bridging the digital divide and ensuring that no individual is left behind in our increasingly technology-driven society.

Our campuses heavily rely on the resources made available through the NOVELNY program to provide students with equitable access to essential research platforms. The top five databases by terms of use (Gale Academic OneFile, Gale in Context: Opposing Viewpoints, Gale General OneFile, Gale OneFile, Health and Medicine, and Gale OneFile: News) were accessed nearly 1.5 million times between 2020 and 2023. By continuing to fund this program, New York will directly support the mission of our educational institutions to nurture the academic growth and intellectual development of our students. Moreover, the accessibility of NOVEL NY resources extends beyond the confines of higher education, enabling lifelong learning opportunities for students as they transition into higher education or the workforce.

Furthermore, the strength of NOVELNY lies in its ability to offer diverse perspectives and reliable sources of information, an essential aspect of research and critical thinking. By supporting this program, you are reinforcing our commitment to cultivating well-informed and intellectually curious individuals who can contribute positively to our society. Equal access to these resources should not be contingent upon a district's financial capacity to purchase them; it should be a right granted to every student and citizen of New York State.

Regrettably, the potential lack of funding for the NOVELNY databases poses a significant threat to the quality of education and learning opportunities available to our students. It would create an alarming disparity in access to reliable research resources, especially in more rural districts where resources are already limited. Denying our students equal access to quality information would hinder their intellectual growth and hinder their ability to compete on a global scale.

Action: On behalf of all students, faculty, and staff of the State University of New York, SUNYLA recognizes the importance of NOVELNY as a critical resource for all New York State citizens. We (the State University of New York Librarian Association) urge the New York State Legislature to back funding to these resources in full so that they may continue to be accessed freely and equitably by all New York State citizens.

Drafted By: State University of New York Librarian Association – Adam Saunders, President
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