New York

Projects by Strategy, FY 2003–2006

- 39% Human Capital Development
- 21% Library Service Expansion and Access
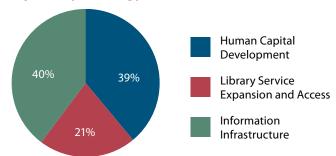- 40% Information Infrastructure

This fact sheet provides information about the State Library Administrative Agency, LSTA Grants to States programs by category, expenditures by fiscal year (2003–2006), interview highlights with the chief officer, and the program goals for 2008–2012.

State Library Administrative Agency Information

Agency name	New York State Library
Agency governance	Under the Department of Education
Population served in 2006	19,367,028
FY 2006 total expenditures	$111,117,000
Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006	$36,440,423
Chief Officer	Bernard A. Margolis, State Librarian
Web site	www.nysl.nysed.gov

Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Jeffrey W. Cannell*

Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:

1. The NOVEL NY pilot for a Statewide Internet Library (database program) is entirely LSTA funded and reaches every corner of the state. There are 5,500 libraries being served and 29.6 million searches in 2007–2008. The State Library continues to seek state funds to support a Statewide Internet Library.
2. Statewide summer reading served 1.3 million in 2007; our goal is 1.5 million by 2010.
3. LSTA has enabled us to take advantage of the Gates grants. Also, the Research Library has, with LSTA funding, enhanced interlibrary loan and resource sharing; the resident borrowers' card extended direct borrowing to residents. We have also updated online services and the Web site.

Delivery of Library Services:

"New York has 7,000 libraries. It's great in that it's easier

Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

New York	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
Total allotment	$9,004,514	$9,142,841	$9,146,819	$9,146,249	$36,440,423
Number of projects reported	126	112	76	74	388
Largest project amount	$2,601,838	$3,573,499	$2,783,637	$2,883,107	
Median project amount	$12,771	$7,395	$26,363	$22,159	

and more cost-effective to deliver services and materials to large numbers of libraries. However, with increased costs and a decreasing amount of federal LSTA funds available to New York, there is a growing challenge to the State Library's capacity to continue to offer cost-effective state-wide initiatives and also provide grants for new projects to the library systems. We partner wherever possible. It's cost-effective to grant money to the systems rather than to many small libraries. However, we haven't done much with competitive subgrants in recent years; there's too little money to go around."

Challenges in the Coming Five Years:

1. Having adequate funding is a major challenge; the economy is tough.
2. Having skilled and diverse staff: Library directors are retiring; there's increased need for leadership and management training, also trustee training. We need to recruit for diversity—the population is changing a lot.
3. Having the necessary infrastructure: An assessment showed that $2.2 billion is needed for public library construction.
4. In the digital era, technology is changing and putting extra service demands on libraries. It has become traditional services plus technology. Broadband is a huge issue.
5. There are new issues too; huge datasets are being produced and libraries are expected to take those in, to be an archives for those too. There are rights management issues related to that. Libraries are becoming producers of information and there are privacy and confidentiality issues related to that. We have to offer staff training in new ways of doing things.
6. There's an increased focus on early literacy and helping students succeed.

* Jeffrey W. Cannell was the Chief Officer at the time that the interviews were conducted.

Program Goals for 2008–2012

- All New Yorkers will have reliable, electronic access to high-quality information resources through the expansion of NOVEL NY and through enhancement of libraries' technology capabilities to meet users' information needs.
- All New Yorkers will have improved access to library resources and services that advance and enhance their personal, educational, and working lives.
- The New York State Library, library systems, and libraries will deliver new and improved programs that anticipate and meet constantly changing needs for library services.
- The New York State Library, library systems, libraries, and library organizations will strengthen public policy support for upgrading library services for every New Yorker through improved communication.

Exemplary Project:
Monroe County Library System

Project title	Library Services to Youth with Disabilities
Library	Monroe County Library System
LSTA Funds Expended FY06	$35,300
Total Cost FY06	$35,300
Program Category	Information Infrastructure , Library Service Expansion and Access

This project of the Monroe County Library System developed library programs and materials for children and teens with disabilities, enabling them to become involved in regular library programming and to become lifelong library users. Librarians and staff received training in the skills needed to give better service to the target population. Presentations were made to parent organizations; e-mail announcements were sent to a list of parents and professionals; and nine community partnerships were developed.