How does New York State Compare?

The Facts About Statewide Internet Libraries…

New York's students, teachers, and researchers need information to be successful in today's information-driven world. Today virtually all Research and Development tools and many tools needed by K-12 students are now made available only online. While general Internet search engines like Google can be a good 'first sort' – unbiased information, full text articles, and reliable resources are available only from proprietary, licensed sources and only for a fee. While we demand higher learning standards for students and top quality work from New York's teachers and researchers, New York is falling behind other states in providing access to these critical tools.

FACT: New York State ranks 35th out of 50 states in providing support for online information tools to its citizens statewide.

New York spends 13 cents per capita, while New Jersey spends 94 cents, Alabama 90 cents, Connecticut 55 cents , South Carolina 50 cents, Michigan 37 cents, Texas 26 cents and Ohio 24 cents and Illinois 23 cents. (National Center for Education and Statistics: 2005)

FACT: New York State spends no State funds on statewide information tools.

Temporary federal funds in the amount of $2.5 million support ***NOVELNY***, the highly successful pilot project for the ***New York Statewide Internet Library.*** Over 5,000 libraries now participate in ***NOVELNY*** and use continues to soar.

FACT: State support for online information tools is an investment that results in tremendous cost-savings for local libraries and local taxpayers.

Each $1 invested in the ***NOVELNY*** pilot project would cost a local library $30. New Yorkers conducted over 25 million searches for full text articles using ***NOVELNY*** in 2007 that would have otherwise cost local taxpayers over $85 million.

FACT: While New York's college and academic libraries traditionally ranked 1st in print subscriptions to journals, they now rank 20th among states in offering electronic indexes and reference tools and 35th in electronic journals and full-text content.

New York's students, universities, and businesses are outgrowing ***NOVELNY*** in their needs for state-of-the-art, reliable knowledge resources. New York's institutions have already seen top-tier researchers decline offers due to lack of access to vital online information tools.

FACT: With ongoing permanent State support,* the *NOVELNY pilot project* would become a substantial *New York Statewide Internet Library* that could *offer New Yorkers 24/7 cost-effective access to thousands of current and brand-name commercial research tools, publications, magazines and newspapers that are not freely available on the general Internet

Whether it's from their local library or from their desktops at home, work or school, with the ***New York Statewide Internet Library***, all New Yorkers will be in the KNOW!

Examples of Other Statewide Internet Libraries

Alabama: http://www.avl.lib.org

The Alabama Virtual Library, supports statewide access to electronic information for all of Alabama's 4.5 million residents with $3.5 million in State funds. "Through the AVL, an equitable core of information sources is available to every student and citizen in Alabama, raising the levels of excellence in schools and communities across the state."

Georgia: http://andromeda.galib.uga.edu

In 2005, over 35 million searches and 10 million full text articles were used in GALILEO, Georgia's virtual library. A survey of users that same year found 62% of the respondents reported that GALILEO saved them time, and 85% stated it was a valuable service which most would recommend to a friend.

Illinois: http://www.finditillinois.org

Find-It! Illinois breaks down the walls of bureaucracy, delivering information from library resources and state government to the people of Illinois.

New Jersey: http://ww.njki.org

The $6 million, state-funded New Jersey Knowledge Initiative program would have cost libraries $74.5 million if those same resources were purchased individually. The NJKI program, a major component of New Jersey's robust statewide virtual library, serves up "Information for Innovation" to hundreds of corporations in the state, saving individual companies up to $500,000 a year in subscription costs. All New Jersey citizens have access to, and benefit from the resources of NJKI.

Ohio: http://www.oplin.org and www.ohiolink.edu

For a look at how excitement and interest in a state can be generated, visit Discover Ohio. Only one of the information portals available to Ohio residents, Discover Ohio is complimented by the Ohio Public Library Network and OhioLINK. In addition to a robust suite of electronic resources supported by a combination of state and local funds, the Digital Media Center of OhioLINK provides Ohio schoolchildren and public library cardholders access to 54,000 art and architecture images and 39,700 historic Sanborn fire insurance maps.

Michigan: http://www.mel.org

The Michigan Electronic Library (MEL) is a statewide catalog to find and borrow books and other materials; nearly 25,000 library-recommended websites; a collection of practice tests and home courses leading to jobs; more than 40 subscription databases; and digital access to valuable historic resources. Although Michigan's population is half the size of New York's, the program invests nearly twice the amount of money spent on similar services. Schools, libraries, and institutions of higher education save over $193 million each year in individual costs.

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