

Library Governance Principles

Any Form of State Governance for Libraries in New York Must Support the Following Principles:

1. Every New Yorker must be provided with equity of access to library services including:
 - A. A broad range of resources in all formats, both on site and remote, to support informal, educational and recreational needs;
 - B. Trained, qualified, adequately compensated library staff;
 - C. A facility adequate to meeting community needs;
 - D. Adequate funding, without direct user fees.
2. The libraries and library systems of New York shall be assured of stable and consistent funding, sufficient to meet needs and to enable them to serve and respond to the changing needs of all New Yorkers.
3. There will be a governing entity exclusively dedicated to serving the entire library community of New York, including individual public, school, academic and special libraries, as well as library systems.
 - A. This entity will be governed by an independent board representing the library community, reporting directly to a Commissioner or the Governor;
 - B. This entity will be headed by a “state librarian,” a professional, certified librarian who will possess at least the MLS degree;
 - C. This entity will oversee library certification and registration;
 - D. This entity will provide leadership for statewide and national library initiatives;
 - E. This entity will be provided sufficient state funding in order to facilitate long range planning in support of its mission;
 - F. This entity will provide leadership in public awareness including promotion of libraries and library service;
 - G. This entity will ensure that state and federal funding is distributed in a manner responsive to the needs of the library community.
4. The state will maintain and fund a state research library which shall be under the jurisdiction of the state librarian.
5. This governing entity will support existing library systems to implement their plans of service to meet the needs of member libraries and the people they serve.

**Task Force on Governance and Funding of Libraries, NYLA Legislative Committee, October 2002.
Approved by NYLA Council, February 6, 2003.**