



Empire State Library Network (ESLN)

New York State has three different kinds of library systems, each of which has a different role to play in supporting knowledge infrastructure in New York State.

Public Library Systems help public libraries manage critical infrastructure and public services, School Library Systems do the same within public school systems, and the nine NY3Rs or 'Library Councils' design and administer services that connect academic libraries, public libraries, school libraries, hospital libraries, museum libraries, law libraries, archives, local historical societies, and other specialized knowledge organizations.

No institution can go about their business alone in 2021, and the boundaries by which we have traditionally differentiated these organizations have shifted substantially in the digital environment.

By designing services that bridge institutional types, Library Councils create cost savings and efficiencies for our regional members, while also building statewide opportunities for innovation through collaboration.

The Empire State Library Network supports...

- **Book and Material Delivery:** It is essential for libraries to share their resources with one another. The Empire Library Delivery Service moves almost 350,000 books between institutions every year, making interlibrary loans and shared resources cost-effectively, and ensuring that library materials get to the people that need them.
- **Software Development Services:** The councils invest in staff and resources to support the technologies libraries use to do their business. The councils develop, customize, and support software solutions for their member libraries.
- **Digital Libraries:** Individually and together, the councils have built and provided ongoing support for a series of inter-institutional platforms that provide access to New York's rich history. Some of these are: Empire Archival Discovery Collaborative, New York Historic Newspapers, New York Heritage, and Empire State Immersive Experience
- **Expert Services:** For example, legal, archival, human resources, health literacy, and disaster planning.
- **Continuing Education:** Keeping the skills and talents of our workforce up to date as the information landscape changes are incredibly important. Together, the councils offer dozens of learning opportunities for library workers every year.
- **Credible Health Resources:** The councils facilitate access to a network of skilled information professionals for hospital libraries statewide who provide timely and accurate health-related information and resources, directly impacting patient care and outcomes.

Regional councils leverage the purchasing power of our statewide network and tailor the implementation of services to the needs and practices of their local members. This builds an adaptable, equitable system capable of scaling attention and spending appropriately because of their mission and the way in which they are organized.

The Library Councils are one of New York's finest assets for supporting the operations of knowledge institutions in the 21st Century.