



# NOVEL Databases

## Statewide Access to Electronic Information from your New York State Library



### What is the NOVEL Databases Project?

*NOVEL Databases* is an electronic database access project that enables libraries across New York State to give their communities online access to the full text of hundreds of journals, newspapers and other references. Currently, the *NOVEL Databases Project* provides online access to several databases. These include:

**Gale Group, Inc. databases** – this source contains seven files, targeting a variety of audiences:

- ❑ *Health and Wellness Resource Center* – available since January 2005, this is an upgrade from the previous *Health Reference Center-Academic*. A source for both medical care professionals and consumers concerning important current health information, *Health and Wellness Resource Center* contains over 650 full-text titles.
- ❑ *Business & Company Resources Center* – available since May 2002. This comprehensive database brings together a wide variety of global business information including company profiles, *Thomson Financial Securities Data*, and *Investext* reports as well as business magazines and newspapers. It contains 2850 full-text titles.
- ❑ *jInforme! (Revistas en Español)* – available from July 2003, is specifically designed to meet the research needs of Spanish-speaking users. It contains 117 full-text Spanish-language and bilingual magazine articles, reports and maps; a total of over 75,000 articles and is updated daily.
- ❑ *InfoTrac Junior* – available since May 2002, *InfoTrac Junior* is designed especially for junior high and middle schools. It features 147 full-text titles most critical to their libraries and the curriculum as identified by school librarians. Additionally, the databases include full-text newspaper articles from *Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Service*, and more than 300 full-color *Rand McNally* maps.
- ❑ *InfoTrac Custom Newspapers* – available since July 2003, it offers over 150 full-text newspapers that include 7 New York State newspapers and the last year of the *New York Times*.
- ❑ *National Newspaper Index* – available since July 2003, provides indexing (1977 to present) of America's top 5 newspapers; the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Los Angeles Times* and the *Washington Post*.
- ❑ *Twayne's Author Series* – available since April 1, 2003, features the content of over 600 books that comprise three print series – United States Authors, English Authors and World Authors. This series is devoted to literary critical interpretation and discussion for readers ranging from high school students through college and above.

**Gale Virtual Reference Library (GVRL)** – available since January 2005, this source contains twelve searchable online reference titles focusing on business, health, and history:

#### Business

- ❑ Business Plans Handbook, volumes 5-10
- ❑ Encyclopedia of Small Business
- ❑ Gale Encyclopedia of E-Commerce

#### History

- ❑ American Civil War Reference Library, 4 volumes plus index
- ❑ American Revolution Reference Library, 4 volumes plus index
- ❑ History Behind the Headlines, vol. 1-6 set
- ❑ Major Acts of Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed., 3 volumes

#### Health

- ❑ Gale Encyclopedia of Alternative Medicine
- ❑ Gale Encyclopedia of Cancer
- ❑ Gale Encyclopedia of Genetic Disorders
- ❑ Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine
- ❑ Gale Encyclopedia of Nursing and Allied Health

**EBSCO** - available since April 2001, contains four files, targeting different audiences:

- ❑ *General Science Collection* provides information on all aspects of the scientific world and offers full-text coverage for more than 60 of the most popular science publications.
- ❑ *MasterFILE Select* contains full text for nearly 750 journals relating to a broad range of topics including general reference, social sciences, business, health, general science and current events.
- ❑ *Primary Search* via *Searchasaurus* is a collection of reference materials geared toward elementary and middle school age users. It contains 64 full-text titles.
- ❑ *TOPICsearch* is a full-text resource designed for middle school students and above, as well as for teachers and librarians exploring social, political and economic issues. It contains 1434 full-text titles.

## **Who is eligible to participate in *NOVEL Databases*, and what benefits do they receive?**

Participation is available to all member libraries of library systems in New York State to the extent permitted by negotiations and contractual limitations. Every \$1 the State invests results in \$30 worth of access at the local level. *NOVEL Databases* may be accessed from any eligible library in the State. Libraries may also choose to offer library users remote access to *NOVEL Databases* from their homes, schools or workplaces 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## **How can my library register to use *NOVEL Databases*?**

To participate, libraries need to complete the online registration form for the database(s) they desire to access. Online registration forms are located at the New York State Library's *NOVEL* web site:

**<[www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/novel/](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/novel/)>**. Since January 1999, more than 5,000 libraries and library systems have registered.

## **Is training offered for the databases available through *NOVEL Databases*? If so, is there a fee?**

Regional "train the trainer" sessions are offered for each database. There is no fee for training. Training is highly recommended for staff in libraries where a database offered through *NOVEL Databases* is being introduced in the library for the first time. Since January 1999, a total of 3,000 people have been trained in over 100 training sessions.

## **How is *NOVEL Databases* funded?**

The *NOVEL Databases* Project is currently supported with temporary Federal funds through a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to the New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Because Federal funding may not be available to continue funding the online databases offered through the Project, \$14 million is proposed as part of *New Century Libraries* to create *NOVEL* to ensure that all New Yorkers can access the expanded education, business, employment, and communication opportunities available online. Provided by the New York State Library, *NOVEL* is an online virtual library connecting New Yorkers to 21<sup>st</sup> century information via local libraries statewide. *New Century Libraries* is an important statewide funding initiative currently before the Legislature that proposes permanent state funding for *NOVEL*.

## **What other services are provided to participants in *NOVEL Databases*?**

The New York State Library hosts the *NOVEL-DB* e-mail list to post announcements concerning database problems, contract dates, upcoming database training sessions, and other information useful to *NOVEL* database subscribers. See our web site **<[www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/novel/database/index.html#Listserv](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/novel/database/index.html#Listserv)>** or send e-mail to **<[novel-db-request@listserv.nysed.gov](mailto:novel-db-request@listserv.nysed.gov)>** for further information.

A Help Desk, also provided by the New York State Library, is staffed from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, to respond to questions and concerns about the databases offered through *NOVEL Databases*. Additional information may be found at the *NOVEL* web page **<[www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/novel/](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/novel/)>** or at the Help Desk toll-free number (877) 277-0250.

A tool kit **<[www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/novel/toolkit/index.html/](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/novel/toolkit/index.html/)>** is now available to help librarians and library supporters publicize, explain, and demonstrate the features of *NOVEL* and the *NOVEL Databases*. The kit includes presentations, publications for downloading and printing, and other helpful components that are appropriate for a variety of audiences.



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