

Mid-Hudson Library System

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LEGISLATOR'S AIDES LEARN ABOUT LIBRARY RESOURCES **NOVEL Databases threatened, legislators' learn more**

(KINGSTON, NY) – **NOVEL Demonstration for legislative assistants:** The Ulster County Director's Association, led by the new Kingston Library director, Bruce George, organized an event for their state legislator's assistants to learn about the value of the NOVEL (New York Online Electronic Library) databases available through all area public libraries and from any computer connected to the Internet.

Susan Cummings, representing Senator John Bonacic, Jeri Ruckdeschel from Senator William Larkin's office and Kathy Keyser, senior aide to Assemblyman Kevin Cahill attended and were excited about the resource they learned about, especially considering the efficiency of offering the same databases through public libraries and school libraries.

"I was impressed that representatives of the area legislators attended," said Kingston director, Bruce George, "to me it indicated that they have an interest in libraries and on how libraries contribute to the civic life of the community."

This event served to heighten their awareness about NOVEL funding being threatened this year due to the temporary nature of the current funding stream. The New York Library Association is calling upon the Governor and NYS legislators to restore the proposed 5% cut in funding to libraries and to increase funding to cover things such as NOVEL. With over patrons searching the NOVEL databases over 8,000 times a month for newspaper and magazine articles, business and health information and for targeted homework help, it's very clear this is a resource patrons are using. Write to your legislator today and urge them to talk to their leadership about library funding: midhudson.org.

For more information about the NOVEL databases offered through HomeACCESS at your library go to your library or your library's web site: <http://midhudson.org/alpha.html> and look for the HomeACCESS button.