NOVELny Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is NOVELny?

A: NOVELny is an online library of hundreds of magazines, newspapers, maps, charts, research and reference books that are available to every New Yorker.

Q: Is there a fee to access the NOVELny databases?

A: The NOVELny databases are free to every resident of New York State through their local public, academic or school library, or through the NOVELny site.

Q: How can I access the NOVELny databases from my home or office?

A: First, you need to be a registered borrower of your local public, academic, or school library and have a borrower number and/or PIN. Libraries offering remote access can give you the URL and password for each database.

Q: Is there a time limit on my NOVELny database account during a single session?

A: No, there is no time limit. However, some people may occasionally lose their connection or be "timed-out", depending on their Internet provider.

Q: How many simultaneous users can access NOVELny databases?

A: The number is unlimited.

Q: Is there training available for the NOVELny databases?

A: Individual library users may seek assistance in using the NOVELny databases from their local library staff. Regional training sessions for librarians are conducted periodically; member libraries are notified of these opportunities through their system offices.

Q: How can I learn what resources are available from each NOVELny database?

A: Title lists are included in each database by clicking on the appropriate link.

Q: Something isn't working. Whom do I call?

A: If you are an individual library user, contact your local library with which you are registered. If you are a registered NOVELny library, contact the Help Desk.

Q: How do I cite the NOVELny database resources?

A: Databases from both vendors include built-in citation tools to assist users in referencing NOVELny database resources (magazine, newspaper, journal articles, etc.).

Q: What if I lose the URLs and passwords for the different NOVELny databases?

A: If you are an individual library user, contact your local public, academic or school library for this information. If you are a registered NOVELny library, the NOVELny Help Desk may be able to help you.

Q: What if NOVELny asks for a password?

A: If you are an individual user, please contact the library through which you are registered for the NOVELny databases.

Q: Where can I find a copy of the NOVELny database contracts?

A: All contracts follow the New York State Office of General Services databases portion of the Books, Serials, Databases, and Library Resource Management Products contract, which is available on the OGS website.

Q: How are the NOVELny databases selected?

A: The NOVELny Internal Team at the New York State Library creates a Request for Quotes (RFQ), which is sent to vendors who are on state contract. Only vendors on state contract are eligible to be selected as vendors for the NOVELny databases. After the proposals are received from the vendors, a working group from the NOVELny team evaluates each proposal and, after receiving the pricing information, recommends a suite of databases (or possibly a few different options) to the NOVELny Internal Team. Selected databases are announced to the field in advance of the July 1 start.