

## Comments from the Fall 2015 NOVELNY Database Survey

### Current Databases/Vendors

I hope you will keep all the current databases for next year.

eLibrary Elementary and Kids Infobits are essentially the same database. I would like to see FactCite replace one of these to give schools a better variety of resources and information.

It would be so nice to have Kids Search included in NOVEL again. Grolier is an amazing resource that our students use daily. Please keep it!

EBSCO's Primary Search with Searchasaurus was removed from the NOVELNY databases, which is a shame and greatly missed by my students. I don't find any of the current databases as easy to use for elementary students or as helpful. Also, while I use the databases myself on occasion, I don't have my students (grades K-6) use the NOVELNY databases because I have never been able to find an easy way to allow my students to log on. If there is such a process, please contact me and let me know. Thanks.

In our BOCES region, Opposing Viewpoints is one of the most-used, if not THE MOST used, database. If we do lose it on July 31, 2016, it's going to be a big loss, as schools will have to buy it on their own. And some don't get much money for databases.

Opposing Viewpoints In Context is such an inferior product compared to Issues and Controversies Online. While, I'm sure Gale gives a great price for its database package, not everything in the package is all that great.

Thank you for, and PLEASE KEEP Opposing Viewpoints :)

Keep Opposing Viewpoints.

Opposing Viewpoints is used CONSTANTLY and we would struggle to ever provide that as it is prohibitively expensive. Thank you SO much for providing it!

Opposing Viewpoints works perfectly with the Common Core Standards and Inquiry-Based Research. It is an invaluable resource!

You MUST include Opposing Viewpoints in Context in your offerings!!! It is a crucial database for student research!!!

Please, please, please keep Opposing Viewpoints. It's a fabulous resource that ties in directly with the social studies curriculum, and one that I could NOT afford if it were not made available through NOVEL.

Please DO NOT lose Opposing Viewpoints.

If you withdraw Opposing Viewpoints there will be a riot in NYC!

A great database! Students especially like the Opposing Viewpoints and NY State Newspapers.

Unfortunately, we've found the Rochester D & C archived website to be useless in terms of its user-friendliness. However, the ProQuest Gannett site is much more user-friendly and we've had more success with it this year, so thank you!

Please, please, please do NOT eliminate Scholastic's Go Grolier or Opposing Viewpoints. They are SO important.

Please find a better encyclopedia reference source than the Scholastic Go suite. Their search engines are really poor and their lexile range too narrow.

Grolier can be difficult with elementary. Less info for this age group.

I think that the Scholastic products you provide are very helpful.

NOVEL resources, especially those from Gale, are critically important to our students.

Get rid of the Gale products and work more with ProQuest.

While I appreciate the free Gale Resources, we don't typically use them in the library. We find them difficult to use. Gale Opposing Viewpoints is very good and we do use that database.

Gale databases can be difficult to navigate.

It would be wonderful if we could have a general magazine/journal database that is better than the Gale Academic OneFile and General OneFile - such as EBSCO MasterFile or ProQuest Research.

The Gale databases do not meet the needs of our patrons. EBSCO databases offer more quality and full-text in their content/journals/magazine selections.

Visual interface of InfoTrac and General OneFile are less kid user-friendly than it used to be. Liked it better before.

Gale has done a great job providing available usage statistics. Thank you. I've been unable to find a way to get usage statistics for ProQuest Gannett Newsstand. I checked the NOVELNY website. Maybe I missed the link.

Gale databases are often well used in the upper middle school and high school setting. Opposing Viewpoints can be used across the curriculum.

The databases offered by NOVELNY are not really suited to a specialized Hospital Library like mine. The only real health database is Health Reference Center and it's too general for real

physician, resident or student use or hospital staff use. The majority of your resources seem to be for schools and public libraries. Not very useful for my type of library.

Keeping Health Reference Center, and Nursing & Allied Health Collection is essential for health sciences libraries.

The databases from NOVELNY are highly useful, and user-friendly to students, and we are thankful that we can provide these resources to our students.

I really value the NOVEL databases and make sure that I teach my students how to use them. Academic OneFile and Opposing Viewpoints are amazing resources!

### **Databases/Features/Subjects Requested**

With regard to resources aimed at elementary school students, I would prefer to eliminate Kids InfoBits and eLibrary Elementary, and return to offering SIRS Discoverer.

Would love to see more elementary based databases added, thank you.

I use Grolier and Kids Info bits a lot so thank you. Anything you can offer for elementary students I will embrace. A catalog of nonfiction ebooks for all levels. More literature (Tumblebooks) for lower grades. I'd be happy to help test out databases with my students, if you like, too.

A more multimedia focused databased for children would be extremely helpful. Right now it is focused on articles, which is lovely, but eLibrary and ProQuest have lots of overlap in titles - a database with more video content for my students would be nice.

Electronic articles and texts that support New York City Curriculum/Common Core that are accessible for younger readers. More content that has to do with American History (American Revolution, Native Americans, Immigration) and New York Long Ago/Today.

Try to be more selective and interested in the databases you offer for the elementary aged children. It seems, sadly, that they are an after-thought once the other databases are secured.

In line with the new common core standards, maybe a primary sources database could be added to the database collection.

Middle School students need practice using databases but there is little out there that corresponds to their reading level. Anything that targets this audience would be helpful

My students are low functioning -- years ago there were more databases for them. Now they are too advanced. I service students in a 6-12 school. Are there more primary source databases available (photographs and academic content)? Or more EBSCO ones like ProQuest? Many of my students speak English as a Second Language.

Please add a database designed for Middle School age students. The ones currently offered are either very "elementary" or "secondary" with nothing in the middle.

As 60% of our population is in Pre-K3 to 3rd Grade, I would like databases for this population.

Any databases chosen for elementary school need to be differentiated for non-readers, (I have non-readers in all grades including 6th!). We need read-aloud capability and larger fonts, and additional teaching materials is another plus.

Please consider databases that are user friendly for grades K-3.

As a youth services librarian, I would really appreciate more databases that are kid-friendly--some of the more academic ones are intimidating and not useful for many children and youth.

It would be great to have resources at the appropriate level for high school students. Students enrolled in college have access through their college libraries. Because budgets have been severely cut from K-12 education, we can no longer purchase Facts on File and similar combo databases and encyclopedias for high schools.

Early childhood/elementary/middle school databases such as Book Flix, True Flix, Freedom Flix, Science Flix, (Scholastic), Teen Health & Wellness (Rosen Pubs.), and PebbleGo (Capstone), would go a long way to leveling access to these excellent teaching and learning resources among schools with small budgets.

I like many of the new additions to NOVELNY. I find the workshops very informative. However, our students need more animation and full color options. Also, it would be helpful to have support to align different products and their resources to the Common Core.

I also have found that products by Rosen are very high quality.

I would love resources like JSTOR or something comparable that offers peer-reviewed articles.

LOVE the new Gale Research in Context; get us more resources for our Arabic, Russian, Urdu, Uzbek, Turkish, Albanian and Georgian speaking students.

In Context databases are perfectly aligned with the new social studies framework and would get a lot of use.

I wish I had asked for Rand McNally World Atlas--great for K-12. Please try to AVOID duplicating resources that are already available from New York Public Library

A language database like Mango would be helpful.

I wish we still had the Chilton's auto repair databases. When we do get questions, it can be hard to find quality, thorough, free resources on the internet. People who rarely use the library and came to us in desperation, were impressed that we had this resource. Most of our repair books

are old/stolen/incomplete. I also wish most databases were easier to use. (Interfaces vary in design, designs aren't user friendly, need to know tricks of how each works, results look different across databases). Hard to convince patrons to use our resources when Google is "easier."

A test service like Learning Express would be useful to public and school library patrons. In our public library, genealogy and historical newspaper databases get very high useage. A business resource like ReferenceUSA has more limited interest but would be beneficial to small libraries too that cannot afford other types of directories

Could use an image database for students to grab photos and images for their powerpoints and iMovies, ImageQuest?

No test prep, please. More accessible to younger children, Spanish language helpful!

Please, please, please add some genealogy resources. This is sorely lacking and widely asked for!

A biography database would be wonderful, like Gale's Biography in Context.

I miss having literary criticism in NOVEL.

Please get Student Resources In Context or something with literary criticism contained in it- NOVEL is lacking in that subject area!

More STEM databases, math databases.

It might be worthwhile to explore obtaining a primary source database and a citation generator.

Since we are charged with teaching ethical use of information, it would be very helpful to teachers and students to be able to use a tool such as turnitin.com to both check a student's work and perhaps allow them to check their own work to be sure to avoid plagiarism.

Voter education resources - Project Vote Smart, iSideWith.

With the growing number of multimedia learners, it would be great to include a video database of quality videos that are aligned to the curriculum.

Research in core subjects is happening more and more in the library. Inquiry based learning partners with Common Core and teachers are recognizing it. We need databases to support core subjects such as ELA, Science, Social Studies and Technology.

Health resources are needed, but something geared toward a more general audience would be useful for our setting.

Streaming audiobooks would be awesome, too. We especially appreciate resources that have audio support built in -- helps young kids, adults who are non-literate, and those for whom English is not their first language.

In terms of magazine and newspapers, focus on adding full-text resources. Adding e-book, downloadable audio books and streaming music & video services would prove popular.

Perhaps a good health, maybe Salem Health and a Business database such as Hoovers.

NOVELNY is extremely important to our patrons. Getting science or business information, that can be expensive, might be helpful. Also it would be great to get some streaming video content.

A number of years ago, NOVELNY carried an EBSCO product that was really user friendly and offered better quality general resources than Academic or General OneFile -- I would like to see that back!

Please replace the Gale series of periodicals databases with ProQuest Research Library, if possible. It is more comprehensive and easier to search.

There needs to be more scholarly information such as academic journal databases.

MasterFile Select is more geared to the general public than General OneFile. Topics and periodicals are more relevant and coverage is much better.

What would be most useful are sources and offerings that supplement what we would normally subscribe to ourselves.

I am hoping that the database vendors will release new, user friendly, fun databases that will excite and promote learning for all age groups.

Please make sure each offering has a user friendly description so that patrons will know exactly what it can do for them.

## **Free Websites**

I would like to see you expand the free resources idea. I believe if you formed a committee, we could have a great free resources page. I would be willing to offer more ideas to help this plan come into fruition. This is really an index that many would be able to benefit from.

There are plenty of free online databases that are available. If the best, most comprehensive, good quality ones were listed through NOVEL it would give patrons even more choices to find solid information. I find if they don't find what they are looking for through NOVEL, they do random searching and find a lot of garbage. This leads to frustration. Adding good free databases would help streamline their searching. Databases like PubMed and other government databases would help.

The reason I don't want to add DPLA or ERIC, etc. to the NOVELNY listings is because when too much information is available to my students in one spot it is hard for them to distinguish then and they become confused.

I think listing free websites on the NOVEL site would confuse school age patrons. We spend a lot of time educating the students on the difference between a database and a web site. If web sites are included, I would hope that they are clearly labeled a website to distinguish them from the databases.

My students and I find Library of Congress very cumbersome to navigate despite wealth of resources.

### **General Comments**

My overall opinion is that the NOVELNY resources need to remain stable and dependable, at least with regard to resources aimed at the K-12 community, as educators have come to depend on these resources.

Too many online info resources sometime overwhelming, and at last choose the easy one Google and Wikipedia. The more less search steps, the more people will use it.

NOVELNY is great but needs to be better promoted to general public.

Since I link individual NOVELNY database titles from our own Library's database webpage, it is vital that I keep up on additions, deletions, and modifications to these titles. I have difficulty keeping track of these changes and sharing these with our webmaster and network technician in a timely manner. Although it is my responsibility, it would be helpful if NOVELNY would send out frequent change notifications and reminders of databases that are being added, expiring, and changing URLs, etc. Changes would not be grouped together, even if they occur simultaneously, but separate notifications be sent for each individual database. And often the important info is buried in a bunch of publicity and boilerplate, that I miss the purpose of these communications. Something like: Database X subscription to expire at 12 pm on x/x/xx.

More detailed analysis of info about databases would help you assess.

There is a lack of current full-text articles. Did EBSCO and ProQuest get them all?

I would like to see an increase in services, not a decrease in any area.

I am excited that there will be a new NOVELNY committee being formed.

There is a need to make the NOVELNY database selection much more transparent. How and why are databases chosen?

Getting patrons to use the databases is very difficult. You can show them the databases and explain that the information on them is reliable but when you check back they are just internet surfing.

Honestly, we just can't get people to use databases. Weirdly enough, they're more likely to use an individual site with a login-- like Ancestry-- than a free database. I don't know why!

NOVELNY's interface is cluttered and unfriendly.

NOVELNY databases available through the Innovative and the EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) are searched and used via our integrated Encore ILP search, however, NOVELNY databases not available via EDS are not searched and used by patrons.

Providing databases is very important, and NOVELNY is very appreciated!

Thank you for all you do!

Thanks for asking what librarians need.

Thank you for providing these databases! My staff and students appreciate them very much!

Great resource for libraries. Keep up the good work!

Thank you for your support!

Thank you. NOVEL is my students' first stop for research.

Thank you for all the great resources!

Thank you for keeping public school libraries informed and up to date with opportunities and access to these wonderful resources.

Thank you for assisting us in providing databases to the students.

NOVEL is a terrific resource.

The Online Databases are essential.

Thank you!

THANK YOU for all the dedicated efforts to support the licensed databases. They are extremely valuable to our students.

Thank you for this service, it is priceless!!

Thanks for the wonderful offering of free online resources. :)



We greatly appreciate the availability of NOVEL databases!

Thank you for offering this survey to us.

We are grateful for all you do to help us provide quality databases for our patrons.

Thank you for providing these resources!

Thanks!

Thank you for asking and collecting such data to make informed decisions.

Please keep up the good work that you have done with free (in NY) databases.

Thank you for considering our feedback.

Thanks!

Thank you for asking our suggestions.

Thank you!

We appreciate all your offerings!! Thank you!

You are invaluable.

Thank you for inquiring!

Adding Opposing Viewpoints and Scholastic Go! to the NOVEL offerings exponentially increased use of NOVEL databases in my school building, after 10 years of working to promote them in my middle and high school libraries. Please retain AND EXPAND resources like this for our K-12 citizens! Thank you!

And thank you. Offerings through NOVELNY are appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to accept feedback.

Thank you for your efforts to make library resources available to the residents of New York State.

Public Libraries appreciate any databases you can provide.

Thanks for survey. Imagine needs of each library type will be different - hard to balance when evaluating resources.

Thank you for making NOVELNY available to all New Yorkers. These databases very much help supplement our databases.

Thank you for doing this survey. I used to work for NOVELNY quite a few years ago when we were first signing people up. It was a great job, and I learned a lot. Keep the good work up. This is essential for school libraries in NY.

Thank you for providing our students with free, authoritative resources.

Hi and thanks, useful resources, although only limited usage.

As our budget dwindles we rely on NOVELNY to provide resources for our students.

Our district is in a small village without a public library. Our students depend on our school database page for much of their research. The selections from NOVELNY are a huge addition to what we could afford to offer by ourselves.

NOVELNY is a much needed reference and learning tool for our small rural library.

It is important to provide databases for free, since school budgets are shrinking.

Wealthy suburban districts can afford the expensive database resources and better prepare their students for college. Some schools allocate very little for database purchases. While our local School Library System chapters work hard to advocate, resources often fall short. The databases you offer help level the playing field for all of our students in NY State.

As a small high school, we could not offer our students enough good electronic resources without the databases provided from NOVELNY.

Our library cannot afford to pay for the databases that you offer and we would be lost without them. PLEASE keep funding the current selections you offer.

NOVELNY is an extremely valuable resource, especially for school libraries, in these times of budget cut-backs. If we want our students to be able to research, synthesis knowledge, and create new learning, they MUST have access to as many quality online resources as possible.

This is a great resource in a time when individual reference collections are shrinking. NOVELNY has been a very valuable resource for our library. It provides popular and useful subscription-based online resources to our patrons and makes them available when we are unable to do so ourselves due to local budget cuts.

In order to better serve all high school students for college and career readiness NOVELNY should provide as many free online and paper resources as possible. New York State is still not an equitable education state. Regions with higher incomes or higher grant availability/preference have more resources available to their residents. Rural schools are at a disadvantage in all categories. Many rural students are not able to attend college for income reasons and do not

qualify for scholarships due to scholarship limitations. Please continue to provide resources for all New York State residents regardless of geographic area. Rural schools are at a disadvantage to provide resources like Gale LRC due to funding limitations. Please continue to provide high quality database resources for all New York State residents.

My school is a small rural school with an extremely small budget. We have 125 students in grades PreK -12. Our school can't afford to purchase the databases needed to provide our students with quality research resources. Without NOVEL students here would be severely limited in their access to these types of resources.

More and more print encyclopedic informational databases are going up behind cost prohibitive paywalls. For some students, what we can provide through NOVEL at school is all they are going to be able to access. I would love to see additional quality holdings made available so those whose economic condition limits them to the resources available at public institutions are not relegated to a "second tier" information stream. If we as librarians do not stand up for these children's right to have access to quality materials, those whose sole goal is to make a profit on information will have won and our democracy will have one foot in the grave.

We rely on NOVELNY databases for a lot of our student's research needs. It is a great resource for our rural school!

The NOVELNY program is very important and is used often.

Please do not take away any NOVEL databases - they are very useful for our students and staff.

These databases are useful for our students, as well as all citizens in the state.

I use my databases to the FULLEST. I couldn't run my library program without access to all the products that are provided by NOVELNY. Please keep them going.....

My school libraries use the NOVELNY databases heavily and rely on their content to help students become more engaged and successful learners.

Please keep NOVEL going, it is very important.

NOVEL products are so valuable, and provide a wider range of materials to create a better learning experience for students.

NOVELNY has been a wonderful resource for all students in our school to give them free access to reliable reference materials.

As mentioned before, we have little insight into what our patrons access. Those chosen have been most used in the past and most valuable to this library.

## **Multi-year Contracts**

It would be helpful to know what databases will be offered for the future not just by year to year. Any way to provide long term (at least 3 year) commitments?

It would really help our planning/budgeting process if New York State was able to commit to multi-year contracts with any of the databases. It would help us plan our purchasing accordingly and avoid duplication/overlap.

## **Survey Questions**

There should be an option in the database listing for "do not currently use." I am an Adult Librarian and do not generally use Kids InfoBits and do not know how used it is in Children's so there should be another option indicating that.

It is not that I thought some of the databases were not useful, but we are an elementary school. You should have a "does not apply" answer for that question.

Under your basic questions, you should have divided up the public school librarians into the grade levels they serve--each group has a massive difference in resources they need. For example, I am not interested in access to TumbleBooks or PebbleGo, but my district elementary librarians would kill for it.

I should have looked at your questions first and then I could have researched the actual companies and URL's that provide appropriate grade-level resources for high school students. If you need a committee on this, and I can work from home, let me know. Thank you.

It's hard to answer these questions as general database use is so low. I have no experience with products for the elementary school crowd.

I am a High school librarian (which you can probably surmise but I think this should have been an additional question you asked.) Obviously, I am not going to want anything elementary, but these may be excellent resources...thank you.

Since I run two libraries for our district, one K-6 and one 7-12; it would be nice if I could fill one of these surveys out for each library individually. Thanks!

The suggested databases that I listed are purely based on the fact that as a small academic library we are priced out of these valuable databases. ScienceDirect we have a contract with SUNY, but it is amazing how much we have to pay for that resource.

Thank you for your consideration. I would appreciate a list of databases from which to choose. I might not be aware of so many useful databases.

I have more questions than answers with regard to open access. There are more than three I'd suggest, but not with the kind of certainly only sufficient time to explore might provide.

### **Other**

When my students do Gale searches, we search all databases listed for comprehensive results.

The school in which I am currently employed has no databases. I don't even know what is available anymore.