

State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli provides New Yorkers a new tool to aid their efforts to review some inner workings of state government.

Try [OpenBookNewYork.com](http://OpenBookNewYork.com).

Find out information on contracts at state agencies.

This includes an opportunity to look at dollars allocated in our communities.

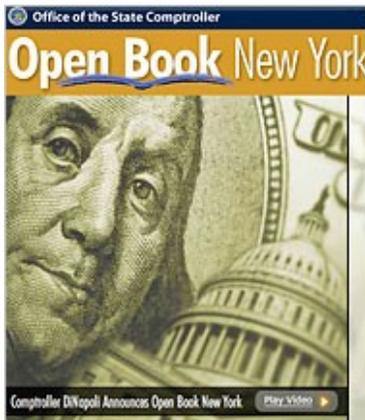


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## With a Click, the State Is an Open Book

By [Nicholas Confessore](#)

Taxpayers, along with reporters, can add yet another powerful tool to their online arsenal for digging into how government spends their money. On Tuesday, Thomas P. DiNapoli, the state comptroller, unveiled the Web site [OpenBookNewYork.com](http://OpenBookNewYork.com), which allows searches of more than 60,000 contracts at 113 state agencies, encompassing the lion's share of tax dollars.



The new site joins an effort that was started this year by Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo, [Project Sunlight](#), which allows joint searching of legislation, lobbying expenditures, contractors and campaign contributions.

For example, for those who go to the Open Book site and click on "Search State Agency Spending," what comes up is what each agency is spending in different categories. In travel, for example, a search can be made by an individual agency, or one can get a full tally for all state spending on employee travel: \$154,871,286.11 for the 2007-8 fiscal year, to be exact.

[Enlarge this image.](#)

A click on the category and a list comes up by agency, which can also be ranked from highest to lowest. For example, the State University of New York system accounts for \$42.3 million of those expenses, almost a third. (That sounds like a lot until you consider that SUNY has 64 campuses employing 83,547 people, a significant fraction of the state workforce.) Coming in with the lowest travel expenses is the New York City Financial Control Board, with \$3,196.46.

Also searchable is a [specific contractor](#), with results that list how much each contract is worth and what it is for.

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Read the entire article at <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/06/17/with-a-click-the-state-is-an-open-book/>