



**Mission:** Our mission is to support library staff in alleviating the challenges teens face, and in putting all teens – especially those with the greatest needs – on the path to successful and fulfilling lives.

### Facts about YALSA:

- Current membership is more than 5,100
- Founded in 1957 and headquartered in Chicago, YALSA is a division of the American Library Association, which is a financially stable 501(c)3 charitable association.

### What We Do:

YALSA brings together key stakeholders from the areas of libraries, education, research, out of school time, youth development and more to develop and deliver resources to libraries that expand their capacity to support teen learning and enrichment and to foster healthy communities. Read about us and our mission in [Associations Now](#) and check out this [infographic](#) (.pdf).

- **Advocate** by participating in events like [National Library Legislative Day](#) and implementing [District Days](#) initiatives for libraries to participate in, YALSA works at a national level to inform and engage policy makers and elected officials about the important role libraries and library staff play in preparing teens to become engaged, productive citizens.
- **Research** through efforts such as its [Research Agenda](#) and [Journal for Research on Libraries and Young Adults](#), YALSA promotes and disseminates relevant research.
- **Train** In order to ensure that librarians and library workers have the skills needed to engage, educate and support teens, YALSA offers a wealth of continuing education activities, including
  - [e-learning](#), including e-courses and monthly webinars
  - an annual [YA services symposium](#)
  - [micro-credentialing](#) for library staff to gain skills and demonstrate their expertise to employers
  - Provide training for library workers serving teens at ALA's conferences, our face-to-face [licensed institutes](#) and via [curriculum kits](#)
- **Build Capacity** by providing over \$150,000 per year to libraries through grants to help libraries do things like offer summer reading programs, hire teen interns and increase their digital media offerings. YALSA scholarships and stipends support librarians and library workers seeking to further their education or gain leadership skills. Read our 2014 [report](#) (pdf) on Helping Libraries Meet the Needs of Diverse Teens, or watch this 5 minute [video](#).
- **Promote best practices and identify trends**
  - Publish books, a weekly eNews, and a quarterly journal, *Young Adult Library Services*.
  - Develop and disseminate [national guidelines](#) for serving teens in libraries, such as "Core Professional Values for the Teen Services Profession."
  - Curate industry content via blogs at <http://yalsa.ala.org/blog> and <http://yalsa.ala.org/thehub>