

ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY SERVICE TO CHILDREN
A DIVISION OF THE

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Respond to

JANE BOTHAM
2579 Maryland Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53211

January 8, 1987

Ms. Penny Jeffrey
Chair, YASD/ALSC
Cuyahoga County Public Library
Independence Branch
7121 Valley View Drive
Independence, OH 44131-3423

Dear Penny,

Attached is a draft of a statement as requested for the ALSC/YASD Age Level Definition Task Force. I am late in getting it to you because I wanted to talk to the ALSC members before finalizing the draft.

All of the ALSC members feel strongly ALSC and YASD should continue to cooperate in providing service to children and young adults.

I look forward to a lively discussion at Midwinter.

Cordially,

Jane Botham, President
ALSC

JB:jhk

cc: M. Bush
J. Davie
E. Dresang
✓ S. Roman

ALSC/YASD AGE DEFINITION

At the 1984 Midwinter Conference the ALSC Board approved a responsibility statement as revised by a Task Force chaired by Peggy Sullivan. The statement did not substantially alter the charge of the division. Among the suggested changes was a rewording of the first sentence of the statement, in which the term "junior high age" was changed to "age 14" to reflect the long established wording in the media evaluation policies of ALSC. The revised statement was then sent to the Committee on Organization (COO) for review and for ultimate approval by ALA Council.

At the request of YASD, the statement was withdrawn from COO until the division of age responsibility for ALSC and YASD could be defined. The ALSC/YASD Age Level Definition Task Force committee has carefully reviewed the research regarding adolescents. The research does not indicate any reason for ALSC to change its recommendation made to COO in 1984.

The age a child enters adolescence varies greatly according to each individual. Each child develops at different rates mentally, physically and emotionally. ALSC has served in the past and will continue to serve the age group which contains children who are entering early adolescence.

For purposes of measurement and for evaluation of collections and services it is essential that ALSC and YASD provide an age level definition that does not overlap.

Respectfully submitted -- Jane Botham, Margaret Bush, Judy Davie, Eliza Dresang, ALSC Members of the ALSC/YASD Age Level Definition Task Force.