

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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DRAFT OF AGE DEFINITION STATEMENT

"Young adults are adolescents ten to eighteen years old, approximately fifth to twelfth grade."

Early adolescents (ten to fourteen) are served by both children's and young adult specialists. There should, therefore, be a recognition of age groups served in collection development, service planning and out^{put} measures.

We base this definition on research gathered on the mental, psychological, physical and emotional development of adolescents.

All the research we have done leads us to believe that the sexual development of young people triggers a change in their self-image: they no longer consider themselves children.

YASD and ALSC, by recognizing this fact of life, can lead the way in helping libraries develop service programs. By cooperating, YASD and ALSC, can provide a model for collecting meaningful statistics on library service to people in the under 18 age category.

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