

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Council on Library Resources (CLR) should be contacted and encouraged to include grants for research in the area of library services for youth in school and public libraries.
2. (Alternative Recommendation) If CLR is not interested in expanding its program to include the above, establish a counterpart to CLR which will focus on providing grants for research in the area of library services in the area of library services for children and young people.
3. Urge the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) to provide a grant to study the role in promoting literacy at an early age (early literacy) of elementary school library media centers and children's services in public libraries.
4. Assess the level and quality of library services for children and young people in schools and public libraries.

STANDARDS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Collect information about the existence of state library standards for library services to children and young people in school and public libraries.
2. Identify exemplary library programs.
3. Design an aggressive publicity campaign regarding the standards for school library media centers (upon completion of revision).

LIBRARY AWARENESS/APPRECIATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Design a master plan for a library awareness program.
2. Involve teachers, parents, administrators, deans and professors of education and general public.

RECRUITMENT/CONTINUING EDUCATION/STAFF DEVELOPMENT/LIBRARY EDUCATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Survey entrance/graduation requirements of library schools.
2. Survey (combine with above survey) library school curricula; analyze in terms of availability of courses in age level work.
3. AASL/ALSC/YASD should establish liaisons with existing groups with similar projects.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

SALARIES/WORKING CONDITIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS: Work closely with the ALA Office for Library Personnel Resources and study the Pay Equity Task Force Report.

CERTIFICATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Work closely with groups already dealing with professional standards.
2. Study the Carnegie Report, Nation Prepared: Teachers for the Twenty-first Century, to determine how the report can be used to achieve our objectives.

RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT

Recommendation "K" deals with "Leadership through Research and Assessment." It states that "the nation's school library-media centers ... be assessed for their ability to respond to the urgent proposals for excellence in education and lifelong learning." In addition, the report recommends that research be conducted in such vital areas as:

- 1) the information-seeking skills and behavior of children
- 2) why young adults stop using libraries

If school library media centers and library services for youths in public libraries are to meet their obligations in intellectually, economically, and socially appropriate ways, more support for assessment and research is needed.

For twenty-nine years academic libraries have been able to apply to the Council on Library Resources (CLR) for grants. Public libraries have been given support by the Federal government (LSCA, etc.). However, few programs for children and young adults have been funded under LSCA. School libraries have received "little notice" since the demise of categorical aid (ESEA Title II and IVB).

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council on Library Resources be encouraged to include grants for research in the area of library services for youth in school and public libraries.

STRATEGIES

1. Contact CLR regarding the inclusion of youth library services in its regular program
2. Contact foundations which fund CLR. Document the rationale for expanding research grant opportunities in the area of youth library services.
3. Write a proposal for a CLR component which includes youth library services

OR

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION: The establishment of a counterpart of CLR which will focus on providing grants for research in the area of library services for children and young people in school and public libraries.

STRATEGIES

1. Contact CLR to discuss the organization and implementation of the CLR program.
2. Contact foundations funding CLR. Provide rationale for new organization.
3. Write a proposal to present to the foundations.

ALL OF THE ABOVE IN CONSULTATION WITH ALA OFFICE OF RESEARCH

RATIONALE for Recommendation I and Alternative Recommendation

1. To encourage the investigation of questions related to information and its use in teaching
2. To test and develop alternative methods to providing library services for children and young people (sharing resources)
3. To provide forums for discussion about the future role of libraries and librarians that serve children and young people
4. To strengthen professional education for leadership
5. To investigate and study why some young adults stop using the library
6. To study the information-seeking skills and related behavior of children and young people
7. To encourage independent research by librarians who work with children and young people
8. To determine how library programs for youth contribute to literacy at an early age and life-long learning

Findings of the investigation and research will support new programs or provide new directions for both school and public libraries.

RECOMMENDATION: That the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) provide a grant to study the role in promoting literacy at an early age (early literacy) of elementary school library media centers and children's services in public libraries

STRATEGIES

1. Get information about the Project to study the role in literacy education of secondary schools, community college, academic, public, state and state institutional libraries funded by DEO at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.
2. Contact DOE concerning funding a similar project (1) to study the role in early literacy of libraries for youth.
3. Write a proposal to be submitted to the DOE and/or foundations.

RECOMMENDATION: Assessment of library services for children and young people in schools and public libraries. Repeat assessment at least once each decade.

STRATEGY: Submit proposals to private and/or public funding sources.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION : Seek advice and assistance from -

1. Office of Research (ALA)
2. AASL Research Committee
3. ALSC Research and Development Committee
4. YASD Research Committee
5. PLA Research Committee
6. PLA Children's Services Committee

ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENCE TASKFORCE

STANDARDS

While the standards for school library media programs are being revised find out which states have state standards and how they are being implemented.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Youth Divisions of the American Library Association make a survey to collect information about state standards.

RECOMMENDATION: (Post Standard Revision) That an aggressive publicity campaign be designed to be implemented with the assistance of schools, school districts, public libraries, and library systems. Utilize the assistance of the affiliates and Supervisors' Section.

STRATEGIES

1. Publish a discussion guide to accompany the "Standards."
2. Seek advice and assistance from:
 - a. AASL Standards Committee
 - b. ALA Standards Committee
 - c. PLA and other units

RECOMMENDATION: That the Youth Divisions of the American Library Association identify exemplary library programs

STRATEGIES

1. Establish criteria for exemplary programs.
2. Prepare and publish a directory of exemplary programs in each state.
3. Establish a dialogue with prominent educators (Goodlad, Tyler, etc.), schools of education, etc. Invite them to visit the centers and libraries.
4. Publicize the programs widely.

ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENCE TASK FORCE

LIBRARY AWARENESS/APPRECIATION

Alliance for Excellence examines the changing role of the library in today's society and makes a number of suggestions and recommendations as to the role the library can play in a "Learning Society" of the future. Services for youth in public libraries and school library media centers are among the first items to perish in a budget cut. In order to maintain current service levels and perhaps even allow for the expansion that is called for by the information boom, we must make fellow professionals, teachers, administrators and the general public aware of what libraries and librarians have to offer. In Alliance for Excellence it is suggested that we must form "an alliance among teachers, education administrators, parents and other citizens, and the nation's librarians." Also, "to achieve their potential, libraries will have to be perceived in a new way. They must be accepted as an integral part of the overall education system in your community, the librarian must be considered an educator as well as a librarian."

There are many library awareness/public relations programs being implemented by units of the American Library Association. However, the programs are not coordinated to provide the maximum benefit.

RECOMMENDATIONS/STRATEGIES

Utilize the expertise and services of the ALA Public Information Office to find out what is being done in the area. With their assistance design a master plan for a library awareness plan and prepare materials which will emphasize the important role of library services for children and young people.

1. brochures
2. kits to be used by affiliates, chapters, parents, etc.
3. TV and radio spots
4. cable television programs
5. speakers bureau (speak at library and non-library programs)

Seek advice and assistance from all groups working in this area.

ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENCE TASKFORCE

RECRUITMENT/CONTINUING EDUCATION/STAFF DEVELOPMENT /LIBRARY EDUCATION

CONCERN: Library schools must develop and train professionals "with broad general education that is geared to meet the challenges of the Information Age. They must enliven their recruitment, reshape curriculum, and raise to a new level of professionalism the continuing education of their peers in the field."

RECOMMENDATION/STRATEGIES

1. Survey library schools for entrance/graduation requirements; assess and make recommendations.
2. Contact other groups
 - a. ALA Realities Implementation Committee
 - b. ALA Committee on Accreditation
 - c. ALA Standing Committee on Library Education (SCOLE)

CONCERN: As age-level specialists, we are concerned with the dearth of qualified librarians who work with children and young people and with the "chicken-and-egg" situation regarding the lack of courses in library schools on children's and young literature/services.

RECOMMENDATIONS/STRATEGIES

1. Survey (combine with above survey) library school curricula; analyze in terms of availability of courses in age level work, faculty status of professors teaching courses (permanent staff vs. adjunct staff); elective courses vs. required components of program.
2. Establish a Speakers Bureau which will work with counterparts in state and local organizations to set up a structure whereby representatives can speak to library school students about the importance of and excitement of working with young people in school and public libraries.
3. Contact other groups
 - a. ALA Chapters
 - b. ALA Membership Committee
 - c. ALA Chapter Councilors
 - d. PLA Service to Children Committee
 - e. RASD Reference Services to Children and Young Adult Committee
 - f. ALSC Liaison with State Associations
 - g. Ala Realities Committee
 - h. AASL Affiliates

CONCERN: Schools of Education must insure that "candidates for teacher or school administrators receive meaningful instruction in the role and activity of a school library center," as well as the role and activity of the public library and its services to young people."

ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENCE TASKFORCE

RECRUITMENT/CONTINUING EDUCATION/STAFF DEVELOPMENT (continued)

RECOMMENDATIONS/STRATEGIES

Outreach to schools of education, survey curriculum and analyze to determine if the role of the library is part of course work; courses required for potential teachers should include the role of the library as part of teaching.

Write a proposal that includes the specifics as to what should be included in courses for potential teachers.

Identify Schools of Education that will implement a pilot project.

Seek the advice and assistance of other organizations:

1. NASSP - National Association of Secondary School Principals
2. NAESP - National Association of Elementary School Principals
3. ASCD - Association of Supervisors and Curriculum Developers
4. ALA Realities Implementations Committee

CONCERN: "Continuing professional development is more of an obligation in librarianship than ever before. Every library and library system should budget annually to cover continuing education costs for professionals and other staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Many groups within and outside ALA are dealing with this concern. AASL/ALSC/YASD should establish liaison and work with existing groups. More joint continuing education programs should be encouraged.

Groups to Contact:

1. ALA Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange Round Table (CLENERT)
2. PLA Education of Public Librarians Committee
3. ALSC Education Committee
4. YASD Education Committee
5. AASL Continuing Education Committee
6. COSLA (Chief Officers of State Library Agencies)
7. LITA and LAMA
8. NASSP & NAESP
9. ALA Realities Implementation Committee

SALARIES/WORKING CONDITIONS

CONCERN: Librarians have always been underpaid. In no other profession that requires the level of education required of librarians is the monetary compensation as poor. "The library community has the obligation not only to campaign for keeping those institutions alive, but also to apply its full strength to recruiting the best and brightest neophytes into this career avenue." Offering salaries commensurate with education, responsibility and implicit societal value of service/expertise offered is an all important first step to this end.

RECOMMENDATIONS/STRATEGIES

On many fronts ALA is exploring the many issues, conflicts, controversies about salaries, comparable worth, pay equity. AASL/ALSC/YASD should establish liaison and work with existing groups.

Groups to contact:

1. ALA Office for Library Personnel Resources
2. Pay Equity Taskforce
4. Realities Implementation Committee

CERTIFICATION

CONCERN: Standards for librarian competency should be enforced.

RECOMMENDATIONS/STRATEGIES

1. Work with groups already dealing with professional standards.
2. Study the Carnegie Report, Nation Prepared: Teachers for the Twenty-first Century. Determine how the report can be used to achieve our objectives.
3. Groups to contact
 - a. ALA Standards Committee
 - b. AASL Standards Committee
 - c. PLA Service to Children Committee
 - d. ALA Chapters

Respectfully submitted,

Mariam Haines

Roslyn Rubinstein

Lucille C. Thomas, Chair

Alliance for Excellence Task Force
(Phase II)

ALLERTON EVALUATION SUMMARYQuestion: What is your job title?Responses:

Children/Young Adult Librarian	29
Children's Services Dept. Mgr./Head	22
Professor	14
Consultant	10
Director	7
Student	2
Assistant Director	1
Dean	1
Librarian I	1
Library Assistant I	1
Assistant to Director of Children's Svcs.	1
Regional Head of Young Adult Services	1
Management Librarian IV	1
School Librarians (total: 29):	
Coordinator of Children's/Young Adult Svcs.	15
Media Specialist	4
Young Adult Specialist	3
High School Reference	2
Library Media Director	2
Supervisor III (K-5)	1
Coordinator of Children/YA Network	1
School Services Coordinator/Adult Svcs. Dept.	1
Total	117

Question: How long have you held this position?Responses:

Range - ½ to 25 years
 Mean - 5.85 years
 Median- 4.5 years

Question: How did you hear about this workshop?Responses:

Mailing/Brochure	63
Administrator received mailing	17
ILA/YSS	9
Read in Magazine/Journal	7
ALSC	7
ALA	5
Colleague Shared Information	5
IL St. Lib. Info. about Scholarships	5
From Leslie Edmonds	4
Was Asked to Speak	3
PLA at St. Louis	1
AASL Board Meeting	1
YASD Board Meeting	1
Read Idea Session	1
U. of Ill. GSLIS Alumni Bulletin	1

Question: Rank the workshop as a whole: (1=poor; 5=excellent)

Responses:

Mean - 4.4

5 - 40

4½ - 23

4 - 41

3½ - 3

3 - 10

2 - 0

1 - 0

no response - 5

Question: What part of the workshop did you find most useful?

Responses:

R. Minudri	11
Discussion with other participants	7
M. Miller	7
M. Brandwein	7
Focus Groups	4
Tyson	3
F. McDonald	2
All of Institute	2
L. Gerhardt	2
M. Kimmel	1
Resource Sharing	1
Brainstorming Session	1
C. Hippenhammer	1

Question: What part of the workshop did you find least useful?

Responses:

G. Hodges in Context of Institute	7
M. Bush	3
Focus Groups	2
Varly	2
Library Education	2
J. Cummins	1
Special Interest Sessions	1
Use of "Missionaries" in Title	1
Brainstorming	1

Comments:

not enough summaries of other groups
discussion sessions not long enough
poor group efforts in focus sessions

Question: List other topics in librarianship that you would like addressed at other workshops similar to this one.

Responses:

Lobbying Techniques/Political Awareness	14
Leadership Skills/Administration	13
Professionalism	12
Measurement and Evaluation	11
Intellectual Freedom	7
More of Same	7
Collection Development	6
Long Term Planning/Implementation of Plans	5
Continuing Education	5
Technology in Libraries	5
Innovation	4
Information Science	4
Media	3
Future Issues	3
Interpersonal Communication with YAs	2
Rural Concerns	2
Physical Facilities	2
Programming	2
School Library Services	1
Structure of ALA	1
Research in YA	1
Fund Raising	1
Special Populations	1
Demographics	1
Literacy	1

Question: Comments:

Responses:

Well Planned/Conducted/Scheduled Conference	34
Complaint About Food	16
Enjoyed Conference	16
Good Speakers	13
Left Feeling Renewed	11
Needed More Discussion Time	9
Complimented Leslie Edmonds/staff	9
Complimented Hotel/facilities	8
Complaint About Hotel/facilities	5
Specific Issues That Were Overlooked	4
More Minority Involvement	4
Too Many Academic Speakers/Not Enough Practitioners	3
Include States on Name Tags	3
More Advance Publicity	2
Provide More Cash Bars	2
Complaints About Specific Speakers	2
Got Lots Done	2
Good Food	1
Needed More Info. Re: ALA Divisions	1
Failed to Meet Expectations	1
Have Organized Exercise Classes	1
Thanks to Ill. Lib. Assoc. for Scholarship	1

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Brainstorming	1

Comments:

not enough summaries of other groups
discussion sessions not long enough
poor group efforts in focus sessions

Question: Are you a member of ALA?

Responses:

Yes.....159
No..... 34

Question: If yes, which divisions?

Responses:

ALSC	67
YASD	33
AASL	28
PLA	22
ASCLA	5
RASD	3
LAMA	3
JMRT	3
LITA	2
LHRT (Lib. History Round Table)	1
CLENE	1
ALTA	1
ASLS	1
ALISE	1
RTSD	1
SRRT	1

Question: What actions do you expect the ALA Youth Divisions to take as a result of this conference?

Responses:

Coalition Building Between Divisions	35
Support/Develop Standards for Youth Service	27
Establish task force/committee to promote/ solidify agenda	19
Unify Goals of Divisions	15
Review Library School Curricula/certification procedure	13
Promote Political Awareness/Action	12
Publicize Findings/Suggestions and/or Encourage Research	10
Desseminate Information to ALA Members	9
Recruitment	9
Continuing Education	8
Crossover Membership Fees	7
Stop Whining/Act, Don't Discuss	4
Build Professional Image	3
Actions to Support Youth Services Consultants	2
Alter Marketing Techniques	1
Function As Resource Clearinghouse	1