

Voices

NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

A Division of the
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here Come The Teenagers!

By Michael Cart, President, Young Adult Library Services Association

What catches the eye in the U.S. Education Department's second annual "Back-To-School Special Report" is its subtitle: "Here Come The Teenagers."

What this means is that starting this fall and continuing through the year 2007, the nation's schools can expect a thirteen percent increase in the number of students in grades nine through twelve.

It doesn't take an Einstein to infer the challenge these numbers imply: this year's student population is a record 52.2 million, UP 1.2 million from last year's record high. When you factor in projected increases over the next decade, the bottom line looks like this: 6,000 new schools will be needed (at an average cost of \$15.3 million per high school), while an additional 150,000 secondary school teachers will be required.

What's missing from these eye-popping projections, of course, is an

accounting of the urgent need for new school libraries and librarians to staff them — not to mention the corollary need for expanded young adult services and personnel in public libraries to meet the extracurricular needs of this burgeoning teen population.

Some large, urban public library systems — including Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Brooklyn — have already begun to turn challenge into opportunity by restoring dormant or inaugurating new YA services.

What's happening in your neck of the woods? For YALSA to be an effective advocate for youth and for YOU, we need not only statistics but anecdotal information about what's happening in the field.

Let us hear from you. Let ME hear from you. My e-mail address is mrncart@aol.com

YALSA's voice can be heard, loud and clear, IF we all speak up!

PROGRAM SHOWCASE

Monterey Public Library's "Teen Voices" Program

One night each month, the library transforms its meeting room into a coffee house with colored lights, small tables, and jazz recordings playing in the background. High school students read aloud their original poetry to an appreciative crowd. At least one teen poet is a "featured reader" at each session, followed by an open mike poetry reading. Adults are allowed to attend the program, but only teens are allowed to read their works. Jeanne McCombs, Special Service Coordinator with the Monterey (California) Public Library, works with the area high school English teachers to promote this venue for young people's creative expression. Begun in the summer of 1997, this program was met with great success as several teens' poems were published in the local paper, thanks to this program. For more information on this program, contact Jeanne McCombs, at Monterey Public Library, 625 Pacific Street, Monterey, California, 93940; (408)646-3949; e-mail: McCombs@ci.monterey.ca.us

YALSA Announces New Electronic Book Discussion List

Effective immediately, the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) announces the availability of an electronic list called YALSA-BK. The purpose of the list is to provide a mechanism for subscribers to discuss books online. Subscribers are invited to discuss specific titles, as well as other issues concerning young adult reading and young adult literature.

It is also an opportunity for subscribers to learn what has been nominated for Best Books for Young Adults, Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, and to discuss the books that have been nominated. Cumulative lists of nominations for each of these annual lists will be posted regularly by each of the committees. YALSA-BK will

give subscribers the same opportunity as observers who attend ALA conferences and meetings to voice their opinions about nominated books. From time to time, nominations for other YALSA lists may also be posted.

In order to provide more opportunities for youth participation in YALSA activities, young adults are especially welcome to subscribe and to discuss books they are reading, especially those teens who belong to book discussion groups.

The discussion list will be unmoderated and self-subscribing. Undeliverable addresses will be automatically deleted. See "Contacts and Resources" on page 4 for subscription information.

Collection Development



Award Winners Report on Collection Development

The Book Wholesalers Inc./YALSA Collection Development Grant Award was established to provide \$1000 for collection development to YALSA members who represent a public library and who work directly with young adults ages 12-18. Applicants are judged based on: 1) the need for additional materials; 2) the degree of the current collection's use and the specificity of examples used; 3) the soundness of the rationale for the selection of materials; 4) the quality of the description of the benefits this grant will bring to young adults; and 5) the degree to which the applicant's philosophy reflects the concepts identified in *Directions for Library Service to Young Adults*, (ALA, 1993). Reports from grant recipients will be featured in this and future volumes of *VOICES*.

CEDAR MILL COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION Portland, Oregon

A core collection of 70 audio books was purchased for the YA area. These titles, ranging from classics to R. L. Stine's Fear Street, have been heavily used by the Cedar Mills teen clientele. Based on the popularity of this new collection, the library allocated \$1000 in additional monies to be spent on more audio books for teens. Alison states "we believe that this new collection demonstrates the library's desire to serve teens by giving them materials they both need as students and want for entertainment. We hope that such a demonstration makes them feel comfortable and welcome in the library. We also feel that the library is making a valuable gesture towards a generation who are more audio-visually oriented than previous generations have been. We acknowledge, as reflected in these materials, that there are many different learning styles and that some teens would prefer to listen rather than read. Through this new collection we hope to build upon our image as an institution devoted to meeting the informational needs of teenagers."

Alison Kastner
Youth Librarian

B. B. COMER MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER Sylacauga, Alabama

This grant has allowed us to upgrade our collection in several different areas.

During the 1995 fiscal year, the B. B. Comer Library purchased non-fiction books with the \$1000 grant from Book Wholesalers. Approximately 100 books were added to support projects that require an array of materials. Examples of the events and projects that Comer Library was able to enhance include:

Black History Month: The local schools do a study of famous Black Americans each February. Students are often assigned reports during this time for which we have little or no supporting materials. With the grant we were able to purchase updated materials.

Study of endangered animals: Several schools in the community do a study of endangered animals. Often we find that we have old or outdated material which will not

suffice. We were able to add several different sets of books about endangered species.

Solar system and planet study: The young adults do science fair projects each year about the solar system and the different planets. We sometimes find that we do not have enough books for everyone to use, even when we place a book limit. We added approximately 30 books to our collection on this subject.

Caugaville: A yearly project in the local school system is the study of the Colonial period. Each young adult must study a different Colonial trade, make a costume to correspond with this trade, and then present this trade at the Colonial Fair. A fair is set up in the gym and each student demonstrates his/her trade. As you can tell, this requires a wide range of materials. With the grant we were able to add a variety of materials for this project.

These are only a few ways that the grant from Book Wholesalers has impacted our young adult collection. We were quite honored to have been named as one of the first recipients of this award. We look forward to seeing the wonderful results that the grant will bring to future winners.

Tracey C. Thomas
Youth Services Director



YALSA

Young Adult Library
Services Association

The goal of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) is to advocate, promote and strengthen service to young adults as part of the continuum of total library services. YALSA is a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

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YALSA Brings Youth Participation Into The Spotlight At ALA

An ALA press release in October announced the availability of guidelines for youth participation in libraries. The purpose of these guidelines is to solicit the input of young adults and promote their participation in the creation and development of library activities, programs, and publications, thus insuring the relevance of these products and services to the population served by YALSA. Potential activities can include:

- creation of a teen advisory board
- creation of an interactive Internet feature where teens can share ideas with each other and with other librarians
- training for youth as advocates for library services
- development of materials to recruit for and inform about the library profession
- observation of youth participation programs in conference city tours
- involvement of local teens in planning and/or staffing exhibit booths
- involvement of teens on local arrangements committees
- involvement of teens in evaluating the market potential of library promotional materials
- consideration of teens as presenters and participants in ALA programs

A database of school and public libraries with active youth participation groups will be created, which should enable ALA members to contact YALSA for suggestions. The database will also include Junior Friends groups from the Friends of Libraries USA.

Guidelines for Youth Participation in YALSA

DEFINITION

Involvement of young adults, ages 12 through 18, in responsible action and significant services for their peers and the community.

INTRODUCTION

Although the concept of youth participation is neither foreign nor new, the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) recognizes the need for a framework to facilitate the process of having young adults, ages 12 through 18 participate in American Library Association activities.

Each committee or program chair is responsible for assessing the potential for the involvement of young adults, setting parameters for participation that specify objectives and outcomes and providing a balance between member and young adult input. Neither committee decisions nor program content will be made based solely on young adult input but through a combination of professional knowledge and youth participation.

PURPOSE

To solicit the input of young adults and promote their participation in the creation and development of library activities, programs and publications, thus insuring the relevance of these products and services to the population we serve.

GOALS

- To organize and implement youth participation to support committee and program goals
- To collect a wide range of ideas from as diverse a young adult population as possible
- To create valuable experiences for the participating young adults in which they can gain knowledge and/or skills useful in future endeavors
- To find opportunities for collaboration with other organizations that foster youth participation opportunities

(continued on page 4)

To be included in the database, please fill out the form at right and mail or fax it to YALSA.

Name of library: _____
Name of group: _____
Adult contact: _____
Mailing address: _____
Phone number: _____ Fax number: _____
E-mail address: _____
Type of group (book discussion, programming, advisory, advocacy, etc.): _____
Average number of members: _____

Send information to: YALSA, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, Fax: 312-664-7459, E-mail: YALSA@ala.org.

You can also access the forms through the YALSA Home Page at www.ala.org/YALSA. Click on "YALSA Handbook."

National Database for Youth Participation Groups



Youth Participation

(continued from page 3)

PROCEDURES

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:

Identification of youth participation groups near conference sites: The Youth Participation Committee will make available to any ALA committee and program chair a list of local contacts 6 months prior to the event. Committees and programs are urged to draw from more than one group and to seek diverse input.

Requests to attend: Invitations to attend a committee meeting or participate in programs or other events will be extended by the committee chair.

Registration: Committee or program chairs should make requests to the appropriate division or unit office for guest badges.

Conference expenses: Any expense relating to conference attendance is the responsibility of the youth participant, unless other arrangements have been approved by the division or unit.

Evaluation: As a part of the evaluation for programs and committee activities, chairs will assess the impact of youth participation. Evaluation information from other divisions and units should be transmitted to the YALSA office.

Approved by the YALSA Board of Directors, July, 1997.

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Fax-on-Demand: 1-800-545-2433, press 8
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Electronic Lists:

YALSA-L: To provide news and information about ALA and YALSA to subscribers and to provide subscribers a channel of communication for feedback to ALA and YALSA.

YALSA-BK: To provide a mechanism for subscribers to discuss books online including titles nominated for Best Books, Quick Picks and Popular Paperbacks. Young adults are welcome to participate.

To subscribe to either of the lists:
Send a message to listproc@ala.org.
On the message line enter: subscribe
<list name> <your first name>
<your last name>

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