

Future of Library Services for & with Teens



50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
800.545.2433 x4390
yalsa@ala.org

Information for Community Members

About the Report

YALSA, a division of the American Library Association, supports library services for and with teens, aged 12-18. In 2014 YALSA released a report, *The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: A Call to Action*.

Teens Need our Help

- 22% of all children live below the poverty level
- Students from low-income households are disproportionately represented in failing schools
- High school dropouts are not eligible for 90% of US jobs and commit 75% of the crimes in the United States

Libraries Make Great Community Partners

- There are over 17,000 public libraries in the U.S.
- Libraries offer free or low-cost meeting rooms and display spaces
- 99% of public libraries offer free public Internet; 98% offer free wireless Internet
- Librarians can compile and lend free materials, provide lists of recommended reading and websites, and more.
- 98% of libraries offer formal or informal technology training and 97% of libraries offer online homework help.
- Libraries have direct access to community members as well as a network of existing community groups, partners, supporters and volunteers
- Libraries have the capacity to implement programs
- Libraries have a wealth of in-depth, quality information, tools and resources
- Libraries focus on serving the entire community

Did you know that today's young adults:

Make up 25% of all public library users?

Are second in size only to the Baby Boomers?

Are the most ethnically and racially diverse generation ever?

Together we can make a difference

- Familiarize yourself with libraries in your communities, and look for opportunities to collaborate with them in improving service to young people.
- Find a public library near you: <http://tinyurl.com/LibFinder>. Ask to speak with the person who serves teens. Their job title could be Youth Services Librarian, Teen Services Librarian or something else
- Find a school library near you <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/>. Ask to speak with the person in charge of the school library. Their job title could be School Librarian, Teacher Librarian, Media Specialist or something else.
- Pursue opportunities to connect youth to their school and public library resources—both in person and online—and consider developing joint programs with your school and public libraries.
- Expand your professional network to include library staff who work with youth in the community, and identify ways to work collaboratively and invite libraries to staff trainings or networking meetings to talk about their resources and create pathways to collaboration.
- Consider offering your expertise in assisting the library in creating a welcoming, supportive environment for young people.

Additional resources

- Visit the National Forum on Libraries and Teens web site to access free materials, including the full report and executive summary as well as archived webinars: www.ala.org/yaforum/
- Visit YALSA's web site for standards and guidelines for teen services: www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines