Information for Library Staff

About the Report

A Paradigm Shift for Libraries
The report calls on libraries to make fundamental changes that impact all areas of libraries. Now is the time for library staff to consider what this shift means for their own library, including but not limited to:
- collections
- outreach
- space
- staffing models

Why Teens need to be a Focus for Libraries
- Teens make up a significant portion of library users
- Library services for and with teens is in jeopardy
- Within the past several years there has been a significant shift in the demographics of teens
- Technology continues to impact communication methods, teaching and learning
- Teens are entering the workforce without critical skills

Opportunity to Increase Impact
By embracing the changes called for in the report, library staff can enable their library to
- Tap into new funding streams aimed at teen

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?

You can make a difference
- Understand and embrace the reality that all library workers are responsible for serving teen patrons.
- Become familiar with the basics of adolescent development, through formal or informal training, and apply that knowledge to your work.
- Work with coworkers to develop agreed-upon standards for behavior and reinforce them consistently for all library users.
- Reflect with other staff and administrators regularly about successes and failures, and work toward consistency among all who interact with teens.
- Learn from others who work successfully for and with teens and ask them for ideas and tips.
- Avoid common but misleading negative stereotypes about teens.
- Treat every teen with dignity and respect.

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
- Seek out continuing education opportunities at www.ala.org/yalsa/onlinelearning