

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Annual Conference, San Francisco  
June 26 – June 30, 2015

- Topic:** Collection Development Resources for Members
- Background:** YALSA’s recent report, “The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: a Call to Action” calls on libraries to re-envision their YA collections; however, YALSA has not provided any resources for members to do that with the exception of one webinar, “Thinking Outside the Book.” The Futures Report, as well as the upcoming expansion in focus of The Hub, are a first step for YALSA to provide not just title recommendations, but recommendations for formats beyond print as well as general collection development practices and resources. Sarah Sogigian and the Research and Best Practices Standing Board Committee have provided the following information for the Board’s consideration.
- Action Required:** Discussion
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**Background:**  
Members rely on YALSA for collection development support, but YALSA has focused almost exclusively on title recommendations for traditional print materials and young adult literature in particular. Yet, libraries have increasingly been adding nonprint and digital content to their collections. In addition, YALSA’s recent report, “The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: a Call to Action,” states that collections need to evolve from “being ‘best of the best’ lists, awards, and ‘core collections’ to materials in the collections that reflect the demographics of the community and the needs, interests, and preferences of the teens that each library serves, and exist in a variety of formats—video, audio, books, databases, e-content, etc.”

**Existing YALSA Collection Development Resources:** current YALSA resources have focused almost exclusively on young adult literature.

- **Book and media awards:** Alex, Edwards, Morris, Odyssey, Nonfiction and Printz
- **Continuing Education**
  - E-courses such as one on best practices in evaluating YA literature
  - Webinars on topics such as recommended nonfiction titles
- **E-Resources**
  - **The Hub:** since 2010 this blog has served as a collection development resource for many library staff serving teens by featuring news, trends, themed booklists and more related to young adult literature. With the newly expanded focus to provide content on all types of resources for YA collections, the Hub will continue to be one of the definitive resources online for library staff serving teens.
  - **Teen Book Finder** app

- **YALSA-BK** listserv
- **YALSAblog App of the Week**
- **Grants**
  - Baker and Taylor/YALSA Collection Development Grant: this has allowed many libraries to create or continue collections of materials specifically for teens.
  - Books for Teens
  - Great Books Giveaway
  - 2014 MAE Trust Collection Development Grant
- **Publications:**
  - YALSA has published books over the years, aiming to assist librarians serving teens with collection development, including but not limited to:
    - Holley, Pam Spencer. *Quick and Popular Reads for Teens*. ALA Editions, 2009.
    - Koelling, Holly. *Best Books for Young Adults*. ALA Editions, 2007.
  - Position Papers:
    - “The Value of Young Adult Literature,” but Michael Cart (2008)
- **Selected lists:** Amazing Audiobooks, Best Fiction, Great Graphic Novels, Quick Picks, Outstanding Books for the College Bound, Popular Paperbacks, and the Teens Top Ten
  - In 2011, the YALSA Board of Directors voted to sunset the Fabulous Films for Young Adults committee. While the committee served a unique and important role, the changes in technology meant that the work the committee accomplished was outdated by the time their list was completed. The Board felt that this kind of content could be delivered in a more timely manner via the Hub.
  - In 2010, the YALSA Board of Directors voted to narrow the focus of the Best Books for Young Adults (BBYA) committee to Best Fiction for Young Adults. BBYA was the first selected list for YA materials, established over 80 years ago, and its focus was not adjusted when others were added. In order to make the work of the committee more manageable, and because other content was being addressed by newer lists, this group now focuses just on YA fiction.

**Other Existing Collection Development Resources:** many of these tend to focus on title recommendations and/or traditional print formats, although there are some exceptions. Regardless, there aren't enough existing resources to fill the current need in teen services. In particular, there is no comprehensive, definitive resource on best practices for contemporary YA collections. Some examples of other resources include:

- AASL Best Apps for Teaching and Learning
- AASL Best Websites for Teaching and Learning
- ALA provides some collection development guidelines, but the average publication date is 2001: [www.ala.org/tools/guidelines/standardsguidelines#CollectionDvmt](http://www.ala.org/tools/guidelines/standardsguidelines#CollectionDvmt)
- ALA Editions publishes books related to collection development on topics such as weeding, managing e-resources, digital curation and more
- ALA Tech Source publishes eight technology reports annually, and also maintains a blog, although their focus is not exclusively on collection development
- EBSCO Core Collections

- HASTAC’s Digital Collections Forum, [www.hastac.org/forums/digital-collections](http://www.hastac.org/forums/digital-collections)
- SLJ’s Digital Shift
- SLJ Multimedia and Tech Reviews

**Possible Next Steps:**

There is more than one way we can address members’ growing need for resources beyond what YALSA is already providing, including developing foundational documents such as national guidelines for collection development, as well as providing practical tips and advice that members can apply to their daily work. Possibilities include:

1. Establish a taskforce to create YALSA Collection Development Guidelines, addressing basic principles, best practices and recommendations that can be applied to all types of library materials.
2. Establish a taskforce to create a Collection Development Toolkit, incorporating existing and creating new, as needed, practical content such as tips, steps, links to resources, online learning, and other opportunities for members to keep up on their skills.
3. Work with the Publications Advisory Board to recruit and identify a member (s) to write and publish a collection development book(s)
4. Work with the CE Advisory Board to identify member needs around collection development beyond YA literature and then to develop CE offerings based on those identified needs
5. Work with the *YALS* editor to include collection development content in the journal
6. Task the in-coming Research and Best Practices Standing Board Committee to focus on this topic and submit a recommendation of prioritized actions for the Board to consider at the 2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting.
7. A combination of some of the above

**Discussion points**

- When considering the possible next steps from above, do some of these things need to happen in a chronological order? For example, do the guidelines need to be created before things like CE and a book can be delivered?
- Is the past practice of creating a new committee every time a new format develops sustainable or desirable? If not, how can we provide members with needed resources in a timely manner to support them when new formats emerge?
- Is there a way to leverage Interest Groups to help members who want to explore some aspect of collection development?
- Is there a need for any position papers related to collection development? If so, on what topics?
- What opportunities are there to partner within or beyond ALA to ensure members have what they need to develop and maintain 21<sup>st</sup> century collections?
- What can/should YALSA do to help members beyond providing title recommendations? For example, the Futures Report says that collections should be tailored to the needs of a particular community and built through ample teen input. Since this is a new message from YALSA, what do we need to provide members to help them with this?

- Other?

#### **Additional Resources**

- Collection Development (wiki page from AASL):  
[http://aasl.ala.org/essentiallinks/index.php?title=Collection\\_Development\\_-\\_General](http://aasl.ala.org/essentiallinks/index.php?title=Collection_Development_-_General)
- Futures Report: [www.ala.org/yaforum/project-report](http://www.ala.org/yaforum/project-report)
- YALSA awards and selected lists: [www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists)