

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Annual Conference, Chicago  
June 28 – July 2, 2013

**Topic:** National Forum Next Steps

**Background:** With \$99,939 from the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) YALSA is implementing a year-long effort to bring together key stakeholders from the areas of libraries, education, technology, adolescent development, research, out of school time and the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to explore the world of young adults and library services to this population, and ultimately produce a report which will provide direction on how libraries need to adapt and potentially change to better meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century teens. Maureen Sullivan facilitated the face-to-face Summit, Linda Braun facilitated the virtual sessions, and FSU's PALM Center will evaluate the project. Over the summer a report will be drafted, then disseminated for public comment. Linda Braun has provided some information about next steps that the board may want to consider.

**Action Required:** Discussion

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## Update

The two major research components of the forum were completed in late May:

1. The summit was held just before Midwinter in Seattle. Over 70 educators, stakeholders, academics, library staff, and publishers attended the event which included presentations and small group discussions focusing on why young adults need libraries, what we know about teen needs, and how we determine what library services to/for young adults should be like for the foreseeable future?
2. Three virtual town halls in March, April, and May of this year. The events, hosted on YALSA's Adobe Connect space, brought together teen library staff and stakeholders to discuss partnerships (65 participants), informal and formal learning spaces for teens (56 participants), and the future of library services for adolescents (23 participants).

During the events data was collected through a variety of methods including:

1. Small group notes
2. Twitter posts
3. Speaker presentations
4. Virtual Town Hall transcripts
5. Blog posts on the YALSA and IMLS project blogs
6. Recordings from Connected Learning Future of Libraries events held in May 2013  
(As the topic of these conversations overlapped with the Forum topic(s) the content

provides another set of data points for YALSA to bring into the work they are doing as a part of this project.)

The next step for the project is for YALSA to bring all of the data together and write (and disseminate) a report that will provide a framework for library staff, library school faculty, and library school students about what the future of library services to teens must include and look like in order to be successful in that service. To develop the report successfully YALSA has asked IMLS for a no-cost extension for the project and is in the process of completing the necessary paperwork. This will allow the association to spend more time in data analysis and provide a variety of audiences the opportunity to comment on a draft of the document.

If the no-cost extension is approved, the timeline for report development is:

- July – Sept.: analyze data and write the report draft.
- Oct.: publish the draft report and ask for comments from members of the library community and stakeholders. The comment period will include at least one Google Hangout that will allow for real-time discussion of the document content.
- Nov.: review comments and revise the report based on feedback.
- Dec.: prepare the report for publication and disseminate embargoed copies.
- Jan.: publish the report

YALSA is currently building the team of authors and collaborators who will work on the white paper. This team will potentially include library staff, academics, and researchers. When the document is finalized it will be disseminated through a variety of channels so that its impact is as deep and wide as possible.

#### **Possible Next Steps for the Board**

- Direct the executive director to work with staff on a marketing and dissemination plan, including
  - working with staff and members to plan a session at Midwinter featuring the report
- Use one of the upcoming board chats or combined board/member town halls to discuss the report, once it's released
- Revisit the Action Plan once the report is released to see if changes need to be made to existing planned activities and/or if new ones need to be added
- Review the report for budget implications
- Other?

#### **Related Resources**

- Connected Learning Future of Libraries and Teens  
<http://connectedlearning.tv/teens-and-future-libraries>
- National Forum on Libraries and Teens Website, <http://ala.org/yaforum>
- YALSAblog posts on the project  
<http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/?s=national+forum+on+libraries+and+teens>