

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

Topic: YALS Editor report for Annual

Background: Linda Braun, the Member Editor of YALS, has provided the Board with a semi-annual report. The purpose of the journal is: 1) to serve as a vehicle for continuing education for librarians and library workers serving young adults; 2) to publish articles of current interest to the profession; 3) to showcase research and best practices in the field; 4) to provide news from related fields; 5) to spotlight significant events of the organization; 6) to offer in-depth reviews of professional literature and resources; and 7) to serve as the official record of the association.

Action Required: Consent

YALS 2015 in Print

The print issue of YALS continues on its quarterly cycle with issues in winter, spring, summer and fall. In the winter 2015 issue (which comes out in January of each year) we added a new section, #act4teens. This section focuses on content that specifically connects to the work library staff and organizations that serve youth are doing in support of the findings and recommendations of the Futures Report. Since its launch the column focused on community partnerships in support of homeless youth, listening to what teens have to say about their interest in and use of libraries, and re-thinking where YA fiction collections are housed. The focus of #act4teens will help YALSA to connect YALS readers with ideas and methods for moving into the future as outlined in the Futures Report.

Each fall the YALS theme focuses on a special theme. This year the fall 2015 issue of YALS will be filled with articles that highlight the ways that community organizations and agencies are supporting youth and families and how this work connects to the Futures Report. At this time, several requests have been sent to potential authors/organizations (including Radioactive Youth Radio, Denise Montgomery the co-author of *Something to Say: Success Principles for Afterschool Arts Programs From Urban Youth and Other Experts*, and Spy Hop Youth Digital Media) and I am waiting to compile a final list of authors and articles that will appear in the journal in the fall.

YALS on the Web

In 2015 the YALS Editorial Advisory Board discussed the value of having a separate YALS site for journal promotion. After a brief email discussion the Advisory Board unanimously agreed that the separate site was not an effective way of getting the word out about the journal and its content. As a result, with the spring 2015 issue of YALS the journal site is no longer active and we are currently in transition moving content to the YALSA site and producing YALSAblog posts that highlight articles in each issue of the journal. I and the Advisory Board will continue

to work with the YALSAblog Member Manager and YALSA's Communications Specialist on this transition.

This web transition coincides with the digital version of *YALS* availability on the web via the YALSA website and the previous *YALS* site. YALSA's Communications Specialist put the pieces together for the digital version of the journal. In its digital incarnation readers can download, search, and print articles.

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With the transition of the *YALS* website, the availability of the digital version of the journal, and the association's work towards a strategic plan, I expect that over the next year the journal will more and more transition to the role of hub for highlighting new ideas that support the futures work of the association. I see this happening through articles written by those not necessarily working in libraries, through examples of ways in which library staff are bringing to life the ideas in the Futures Report, and through connections to library schools and community organizations. In the next year I hope to better utilize the strengths of the members of the Advisory Board in helping to search for and solicit articles that will help members to move forward in a Futures Report directed fashion.