

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, Chicago
June 23 – 27, 2017**

Topic: Review Materials for Book Awards & Selected List Groups

Background: With the passage of the Selected List Transition document #29 at ALA Midwinter 2017, Quick Picks for Young Adults, Popular Paperbacks, and Amazing Audiobooks are now required to indicate when selected titles are available in Spanish and use e-versions of books when considering titles for nomination. This document seeks to expand these changes and make them consistent across all Selected List groups and Awards Committees. This document was submitted by the Board’s Leading the Transformation of Teen Services Standing Committee: Crystle Martin (chair), Trixie Dantis, Melissa McBride, Candice Mack, Jessica Snow, Mega Subramaniam.

Action Required: Action

Proposal:

1. Pilot the use of digital titles (including, e-ARCs and e-books) for all Award Committees and Selected List groups when available, to be used by committees when considering titles to nominate
2. In all final lists and winner/honoree annotations include mention of whether titles are readily available in languages other than English or in other formats (e.g. Braille, large print).

Rationale:

- Digital versions allow inclusion of more books from smaller and independent publishers who may not be able to afford the cost of shipping hard copies; subsequently resulting in a more diverse pool of books to choose from.
- eARCs are not the final version, but neither are paper ARCs, so eARCs can be used just like traditional print ARCs in the nomination process; that is, that they can be consulted, but committee members must nominate from the final published version, whether digital or print.
- Digital versions of books are easily available, and most adults own a tablet, e-reader, or other device they can use for reading digital content. Committee members can obtain e-books or e-ARCs directly from publishers or through NetGalley or Edelweiss depending on the situation. If warranted, YALSA can loan e-readers to committee members with financial hardship.

Topic: Review Materials for Book Award & Selected List Groups

- To free up capacity for YALSA staff so they will not have to spend time receiving boxes or books that need to be unpacked, repacked, and shipped to conferences. This would free up staff capacity to address more complex and demanding tasks related to the implementation plan.
- Noting when books are available in other languages and formats that are selected by Award Committees and Selected List groups and allows the lists and awards to have greater appeal and applicability for those working with non-native English speaking or visually impaired communities.

Timeline:

These changes should take effect with the start of the new committee term in February 2018. As the President-Elect works to fill appointed committee positions, she will inform potential committee members of this change. The Hub Member Manager will do the same when they seek out members for Selected List Teams for the blog. The change will also be addressed in the orientation and training for all in-coming Award Committee and Selected List groups. As the one-year pilot rolls out, adjustments will be made as needed to support the work of the committees and member groups.

Fiscal Impacts:

- The use of digital versions will free up staff time for more specialized work.
- If warranted, YALSA can leverage endowment funds to purchase a limited number of e-readers to loan to committee members in financial need (e.g. 10 e-readers at \$50 each = \$500)
- The fiscal impacts for noting additional format and languages should be minimal; we expect that looking up whether a book is available in other languages or formats should be minimal extra work for the committees.
- Switching to e-versions of books may potentially shrink the number of books YALSA has available for the Great Books Giveaway (3 annual winners share an estimated \$40,000 in books)

Evaluation: Evaluation of the pilot should take place at the end of one year (January 2019), and include examining the impact on staff time, potential long-term impact on diversity of titles nominated/selected, committee and group member access to e-versions and e-reading devices, and change in work load for committees and groups in noting other languages and formats in which titles are available. The quality and member use of the award and selection list should also be evaluated. YALSA's President will appoint a short-term taskforce comprised of award committee and selected list group members, as well as members of YALSA who use the lists in their library, to complete the evaluation.

Proposed Board Action:

The Board accepts the proposal and directs the Executive Director to inform members and publishers, and work with staff to change the necessary documents for the Award Committees and Selected List groups to pilot these changes.

Additional Resources:

- Item # 29 – Phase 1 for Selected List Transition:
http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/SelectedListTransition_MW17.pdf
- June 2016 Board Document, “Confirmation of Select Member Work Group Realignment,”
http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/OrgPlan_GroupChanges_AN16.doc
- June 2016 Board Document, “Determining Workplan for Remaining Member Work Group Realignment,”
http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/OrgPlan_FinishingCmtes_AN16.doc
- August 2016 Board document, “Recommendations for Transforming Select Member Groups,”
<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/RemainingCommitteeReview.pdf>
- PowerPoint Slides showing YALSA committees' transition to accommodate new types of member engagement,
http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/Restructuring_Before_After.pptx
- Selected List Transition Taskforce First Draft of Recommendations,
http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/SelectedLists_1stDraftRecommendation.pdf
- The Hub, <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/>
- Teen Book Finder Database, <http://booklists.yalsa.net/>
- YALSA Organizational Plan, <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/aboutyalsa/strategicplan>