

Teen Services Evaluation Tool



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Information for Library Patrons & Community Members:

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association, supports library services to teens, aged 12-18. YALSA has developed a tool to evaluate public library services to teens. This tool is a way for library administrators, teen services librarians, and you to measure the level of service provided to teens at your library. Using this tool will allow your library to support existing high quality services as well as identify areas to improve.

You can use the tool to determine if your library is providing the highest level of service to teens possible. Ask your teen services librarian any questions that you may have, and discuss any areas of concern with library administrators or trustees on your library board. You might also ask about what you can do to support your library and their efforts to provide resources, services and a safe place for teens to learn and explore their interests.

Download the tool at:

www.ala.org/yalsa/competencies

Did you know that today's teens:

Are known as "digital natives" because they cannot recall life before the Internet?

Are second in size only to the Baby Boomers?

Are the most ethnically and racially diverse generation ever?

Does your library:

- Have at least one full time, professionally trained teen services librarian on staff?
- Have a specific space in the library for teens?
- Host regular events and programs for teens?
- Have age-appropriate and current books, magazines, audiobooks and other materials specifically for teens?
- Provide adequate computers and other technology for teen use?
- Involve teens in the planning and implementation of teen services and programs?
- Stay open in the evenings and on weekends so teens can visit it after school hours?
- Reach out to special populations, such as hospitalized teens, foster teens, incarcerated teens, homeschool teens, etc?
- Have a section on its web site with information and resources specifically for teens to help with their school work and support their personal interests?

Additional resources

- American Library Association Office for Library Advocacy, www.ala.org/ola
- Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, www.ala.org/altaff
- I Love Libraries, www.ilovelibraries.org
- Young Adult Library Services Association, www.ala.org/yalsa