

YALSA Board of Directors
Midwinter Meeting, Virtual
January 22-26, 2021

Topic: Webinar Update, Future Ready with the Library & Transforming Teen Services: A Train the Trainer Approach IMLS Projects, and Education Advisory Committee (EAC) Update

Background: This report focuses on the state of YALSA’s Continuing Education programs regarding Webinars, On-Demand Webinars, and the Future Ready with the Library & Transforming Teen Services programming. This report was submitted by Ni’Shele Jackson, Program Assistant for YALSA and Linda Braun, Project Manager, Dr. Sarah Evans, and the Education Advisory Committee (EAC).

Action Required: Informational

Education Advisory Committee (EAC) Midwinter Report, prepared by Dr. Sarah Evans

The EAC committee began their work in August, focused on securing a list of presenters for the monthly member webinar. Through member contacts and discussions with other YALSA committees, we have planned presentations through May 2021. This includes webinars from members of the 20x22 Task Force, GGNT Committee, EDI Taskforce, and various selection juries. Since it was an urgent matter to get webinars in place, we did not follow any set of objectives nor weigh the topics beyond being of interest to members. Our challenges moving forward will be to establish procedures for creating a slate of webinars that meet both member interest but offer a range of learning opportunities consistent with YALSA’s strategic plan. We also need to establish protocols for working with presenters that ensure quality content that matches member expectations. The coming months will be ones of investigation and planning for this newly reestablished committee.

Webinars Prepared by Program Assistant, Ni'Shele Jackson

2020 Webinars					
Month	Title	Registered	Attended	Archive Views (as of January 15th, 2021)	Total Interaction
Jan	How to Engage Teens Through Family Planning	132	N/A*	256	388
Feb	Engaging Teens in the 2020 Census	110	59	150	319
March	Cultivating Voice Through Youth Leadership Programs	86	35	218	339
April	Teen Hackathon: Creativity, Collaboration, and Competition	210	120	121	451
April	Lunch and Learn: Returning to the New Normal – Teen Services Programming	791	428	723	1,942
May	Building a Strong Teen Nonfiction Collection	301	159	140	600
May	Lunch and Learn: Summer Programming & Returning to Libraries	230	105	94	429
June	Strategies to Increase Adult Book Titles for Teens	164	79	114	357
July	Identifying the Best Fit Audiobooks for Your Teens	120	63	147	330

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Education Report

[Item #25]

July	Membership Meeting	93	44	35	172
August	School Librarians and School Counselors: Computing Together	62	23	49	134
September	Virtual Dungeons and Dragons Games: A How-To Guide	248	115	157	520
October	Navigating Post-Secondary Readiness in the Time of COVID-19	94	31	73	198
November	Engaging with Teens via Social Media: Two Methods, One Goal	313	149	200	662
December	Serving the Public and Self-Care During Difficult Times	168	76	70	314
December	Chat & Snack: Supporting Teens During Difficult and Challenging Times	325	143	47	515
Totals	-----	3,447	1,629	2,594	7,670

***Zoom was not able to generate a report for January’s webinar.**

June 2020 - December 2020

IMLS Future Ready with the Library & Transforming Teen Services: A Train the Trainer Approach Prepared by Project Manager, Linda W. Braun

Future Ready with the Library

The final cohorts of the Future Ready with the Library project completed their work in December. While the pandemic made it difficult for some cohort members to continue their work as planned, final reports from those in the national cohort and the Pennsylvania cohort highlight the ways in which participation in Future Ready helped library staff to re-think the ways in which they design and implement services for and with middle school youth, their families, and members of the community. Highlights from these reports include:

- The most memorable story that I can think of comes from my communications with the individuals from the Farrell Community Garden. Insights from these individuals led to the idea of cultivating your community. If you can nurture a seedling into a fruitful plant, you can nurture yourself and your community for years to come. (PA cohort member)
- When working with teens, I can now relate to what they are passionate about without having to feign interest. (National cohort member)
- One thing that these conversations had in common was that people often talk about rural America in terms of deficits. Once I discovered not only the multitude of businesses in Hallam Borough but also realized that this represented a collective belief in the economic health of the community, this changed my view of the town and reoriented my thinking to look at assets rather than deficits. (PA cohort member)
- I was able to partner with the local 4H group and what was a “side” goal, working with 4H, ended up being the most rewarding outcome. I learned that 4H is a youth led program with connected learning at the cornerstone. Shauna, the 4H leader (and my project partner) and I find out what the kids interests are by asking questions, in enrollment interviews, and through casual conversations. Afterwards, Shauna and I help make the opportunities available for the kids so they can pursue their goals and interests. (National cohort member)

Over the next few months I will continue to review the final reports submitted by cohort members and prepare the final summative report due to IMLS in July of 2021.

Because of the positive impact that the Future Ready work has in PA, YALSA will contract with the PA State Library and facilitate another cohort from March through August of 2021.

Transforming Teen Service: A Train the Trainer Approach (T3)

While face-to-face training is still not possible for the T3 trainers, we have continued to design, test, and launch e-course modules that trainers are successfully using across country. We currently have three e-courses available (youth development, connected learning, and computational thinking) and are putting the finishing touches on a fourth course that will be available later in January 2021. In order to support T3 trainers in facilitating the e-courses, trainers have had the opportunity to participate in cohorts of the e-courses themselves so they are able to learn the content and learn how to successfully facilitate online learning. Since March of 2020, trainers have hosted over 90 virtual training sessions.

Feedback from the trainings offered to library staff across the states continues to be extremely positive. Training evaluation data shows that 97% of those trained by T3 trainers learned something and that 95% say that what they learned will help them to improve services for and with teens. Comments from participants in trainings from evaluation forms include:

- One thing that was most valuable was hearing from others who are currently working with teens and how they handle different situations (both good and bad). Also, I think the overarching concepts of connected learning can be applied to many areas outside of librarianship as well.

- I liked the focus on truly listening to youth and encouraging their interests. The connected learning framework gives me more confidence to try new programs that let youth take the lead. I am thankful for the education on Somali culture and some of the special needs and considerations our Somali patrons might be dealing with. I feel more prepared to be a better advocate for our Somali patrons.

We continue to sponsor two Zoom meetings for cohort members every month. These sessions provide T3 trainers with the opportunity to learn from and with each other and reflect the topics that they have asked for more learning on. Topics covered in the summer and fall of 2020 include:

- Teens and social justice
- Community asset mapping
- Healing justice
- Facilitation of online experiences
- T3 Goals for 2021