

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, Las Vegas
June 27 – July 1, 2014**

- Topic:** *JRLYA* Editor Annual Report
- Background:** Denise E. Agosto, the Member Editor of *JRLYA*, has provided the Board with an annual report. The journal is YALSA's peer-reviewed, open source research journal, launched in November 2010 as part of the Board's strategy for addressing the research goal in the strategic plan.
- Action Required:** Consent
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Updates

1. Manuscript Submissions

Since I took over the editorship in early July, we have received ten paper submissions. Four of the ten papers were either rejected outright by me as being inappropriate for the journal or rejected by reviewers due to quality issues. Four other of the ten submissions were sent to reviewers, who suggested revisions. I eventually accepted revised versions of all four of these papers. The final two of the ten papers were submissions based on the 2013 and 2014 YALSA Mid-Winter Paper Presentations. I made editorial revision suggestions to both authors, who in turn revised their papers, and I accepted the revised papers for publication. That makes a total of six papers accepted for publication within the past ten months. Five of the six were published on May 5, 2014, as Volume 4. The sixth paper is the 2014 Mid-Winter Presentation paper. It will be coming out some time within the next couple of months.

2. Recent Publications/Publications in Process

The papers appearing in the May 2014 issue represent a range of topics and approaches to studying young adults and library services. The papers are:

1. "Beyond Books, Nooks, and Dirty Looks: The History and Evolution of Library Services to Teens in the United States," by Shari A. Lee (Assistant Professor, St. John's University).

In this paper, Dr. Lee traces the historically evolving purposes for public library services in the U.S., showing how YA services have evolved in accordance with changing public perceptions of adolescents and adolescence. She suggests that more youth-centered research and a closer examination of the goals of YA services are needed to enable YA librarians to serve teens' developmental and information needs more fully and to increase the appeal of YA services to the intended audience.

2. “From Dickens to 9/11: Exploring Graphic Nonfiction to Support the Secondary School Curriculum,” by Barbara Guzzetti (Professor, Arizona State University) and Marcia A. Mardis (Associate Professor, The Florida State University).

Although the YA library services professional literature is replete with enthusiastic graphic novel and graphic nonfiction recommendations, few studies have investigated graphic nonfiction as tools to support student learning. Guzzetti, Mardis, and Baez surveyed 10 teens about their impressions of a traditional literature textbook, a nonfiction trade book, and a nonfiction graphic novel to compare student comprehension and interest in course material. They conclude that graphic nonfiction might be useful additions to school curricula in a range of disciplines, fostering both increased motivation to learn and deeper understanding of topics of study.

3. “Motivational Attributes of Children and Teenagers Who Participate in Summer Reading Clubs,” by Stephanie Levitt Shaulskiy (Doctoral Candidate, The Ohio State University), Janet L. Capps (Assistant Professor, Emporia State University), Laura M. Justice (Professor, The Ohio State University), Lynley H. Anderman (Professor, The Ohio State University), and Columbus Metropolitan Library.

The authors report on a survey of public library summer reading program participants. The survey focused on identifying participants’ reasons for taking part in the program and on the values they placed on reading. The authors found participants to place high values on reading and low values on participation rewards such as prizes or giveaways, calling into question the value of summer library reading program reward systems.

4. “More than Just Books: Librarians as a Source of Support for Cyberbullied Young Adults,” by Abigail L. Phillips (Ph.D. Student, Florida State University).

The author provides a critical literature review of the multidisciplinary research literature relating to teens and cyberbullying. She concludes with recommendations for public librarians interested in helping teens to learn about and to cope with cyberbullying and its effects.

5. “Comics: A Once-Missed Opportunity,” by Carol Tilley (Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

With the 2013 Mid-Winter Paper presentation paper, Dr. Tilley shows that comics were the most popular form of reading for young people in the United States in the 1940s and 1950s, despite widespread disapproval by librarians and other adults. She argues that young adults used comics to develop participatory cultures and as a form of social and political protest, similar to many modern teens’ uses of social media.

3. Mid-Winter Paper Presentation Award Papers

As a contingency of winning the award, YALSA Mid-Winter Paper Presentation authors agree to publish their papers in *JRLYA*. The 2013 paper by Carol Tilley was published in the May 2014 issue. Lesley Farmer's 2014 paper has been copy-edited and is slated for publication within the next couple of months.

4. Planned Future Issues

With an eye toward increasing future paper submissions, we are currently planning three special issues. The calls for papers for the first two special issues will be circulated in late May, with anticipated fall publication dates.

The first special issue will feature research relating to YALSA's recent report "The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: A Call to Action"

(http://www.ala.org/yaforum/sites/ala.org.yaforum/files/content/YALSA_nationalforum_final.pdf). Papers addressing the impact of library services on young adults, as well as research related to media literacy, connected learning, and social and economic factors impacting young adults' use of libraries and library services, are of particular interest. Both academic research studies and action research submissions are welcome.

The second special issue will feature papers honoring Eliza T. Dresang, Beverly Cleary Professor in Children and Youth Services at the University of Washington Information School, who died on April 21, 2014. Her work influenced several decades of researchers studying young adults and libraries, as well as countless librarians who work with young adults in library settings. Research papers based on Dr. Dresang's work and ideas, as well as commemorative essays describing the impact of her work, will be peer-reviewed and considered for publication in the special issue.

The third special issue will feature extended abstracts of papers from YALSA's fall 2014 Young Adult Literature Symposium. I have also invited the authors of these papers to consider submitting full-length papers for peer-review and possible publication. Papers and extended abstracts will be due in September, after the Symposium.

5. Outstanding Recommendations:

The previous editor, Sandra Hughes-Hassell, recommended a redesign of the *JRLYA* website, timed in conjunction with the new web design for *YALS* and enabling the capture of statistics on site visitors and article downloads. I have also discussed redesigning the *JRLYA* website with Jaclyn. I suggest that moving toward pdf format for published papers would facilitate printing and reading and possibly increase readership. AASL's *School Library Research* (<http://www.ala.org/aasl/slr/vol17>) would serve as a good model for such a format. I have also suggested that the journal staff look into getting *JRYAL* indexed by EBSCO's Library Literature database (<http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/library-literature-information-science-full-text>) to increase visibility to library school students and library scholars. Library Lit already indexes many ALA journals, including online journals such as *School Library Research* and *YALS*, and they used to index the now-defunct *Journal of Youth Services in Libraries*.

