

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia
January 24 – 28, 2014**

Topic: Literacy Resources for Members

Background: While YALSA has a wealth of resources for librarians and library workers to help them promote reading, the organization has very limited resources about addressing literacy issues, traditional or otherwise. Beth Yoke has provided some information below to guide a board discussion about the possible benefits of compiling existing and developing new literacy resources for members.

Action Required: Action

The issues

- Literacy and reading test scores continue to be an issue in education – studies show not much progress has been made in the past 10+ years in terms of improving test scores, and persistent gaps exist by race.
- The ‘summer slide’ phenomenon continues to be a widespread concern within education and out of school time communities as well as with the general public
- Studies point to a digital literacy ‘knowledge gap’ for those who do not have access to digital tools
- The report on the future of libraries and teens lays out an expanded definition of literacy that all of our members may not be familiar with

Rationale

- Helping libraries be seen as a place that is working in the community to improve adolescent literacy leverages libraries’ unique resources and increases the value they provide to the community.
- Current YALSA partners, such as the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and WWE, have a particular interest in literacy
- Barbara Stripling is working with OLOS to create a clearinghouse of literacy information for the ALA web site, and YALSA does not have much to contribute
- The Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity has approached ALA and YALSA about a possible partnership
- Focusing on literacy could possibly create opportunities to align YALSA book and media lists and awards more closely with strategic plan goals
- In the executive committee’s talk with AASL at the Fall Executive Committee meeting, literacy emerged as a topic that connects the work of both Divisions

How YALSA can support members via literacy resources

- In order to help school and public librarians better understand and support newer, expanded definition of literacy, a toolkit for librarians working with young adults in school and public libraries could be developed. The toolkit would include:
 - An overview of what the various literacies
 - Information on why it's important for librarians to understand and support each of the literacies
 - How to conduct outreach to connect with and support literacy programs in the community.
 - Examples of literacy focused services and programs libraries can provide
 - Talking points on the role the public and school libraries play in supporting literacy
- Offer more literacy CE, as appropriate, including creating Academy videos
- Incorporate a literacy focus into summer reading/learning efforts, Teen Read Week™ and Teen Tech Week™
- Encourage YALSA publications, such as the Hub, YALSAblog and *YALS* to publish information about literacy and libraries
- Build out the literacy page on the wiki:
http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Adolescent_Literacy to include a list of useful resources, further reading and funding resources
- Highlight ALA literacy resources to YALSA members
- Create position and issue papers on literacy
- Partner with outside organizations, as appropriate, to create resources and opportunities for members
- Identify ways that YALSA could collaborate with and/or support other ALA units, such as OLOS, AASL and ALSC
- Other?

Proposed Literacies Taskforce Charge

The taskforce will create a variety of resources to help members learn about expanded literacies and how libraries can embrace a role in helping teens increase literacy skills in order to increase their value in their community. Activities include: creating a literacies toolkit to be released in conjunction with 2014 Teen Read Week; creating Academy videos that explain the various literacies; expanding and maintaining the literacies page on YALSA's public wiki on an ongoing basis and encouraging members to contribute to the content there; as requested by the YALSAblog Manager, identify bloggers to regularly create literacy related posts; as requested by the *YALS* Editor, identify authors to write literacy related articles; identify topics for issue and position papers and work with the Publications Advisory Board to find authors. Taskforce size: 7 - 9 virtual members, including the chair. Term of appointment: April 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016.

Requested Board Action

The Board moves to 1) approve the establishment of a literacies taskforce as outlined above, and directs the president to appoint members to serve on the taskforce; and 2) reach out to appropriate member leaders and groups mentioned above and communicate the board's direction to incorporate literacy focused materials into their existing efforts.

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