

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Annual Conference, Chicago  
June 28 – July 2, 2013**

**Topic:** RBA: RUSA/YALSA Interdivisional Committee

**Background:** RUSA hosted two Round Table Discussions on Reference Services to Young Adults at Midwinter 2011 and Midwinter 2012. Both were well attended, suggesting a need for such a group within RUSA. As a result, the Reference Services Section (RSS) went ahead and created the Young Adult Reference Services (YARS) Committee. Moving forward, RUSA would like to expand this to become an interdivisional committee with YALSA. Two RUSA members have shared a proposal for board consideration.

**Action Required:** Action

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**Proposal**

To formalize an interdivisional YARS committee between YALSA and RUSA. This committee partnership will address teen reference services.

By combining the knowledgebase of both RUSA and YALSA, the committee will provide forums for discussion, sharing, and learning for people interested in the provision of reference, information, and homework help services for and with young adults. The focus user group is ages 12 to 19 years.

Traditionally, reference services have been the purview of adult services at many libraries and teens are lost in between children's services and the reference desk. By combining the long history of reference knowledge and skills found in RUSA with the knowledge and understanding of the teenagers in YALSA, we hope to provide tools for librarians and library workers across both disciplines to provide a higher level of reference service for this often underserved age group.

**\*\*Current Charge/Function of Committee**

To provide forums for discussion, sharing, and learning relating to the provision of reference, information, and homework help services to young adults. Generally the focus user group is age 12 to 19 years. This committee takes responsibility for maintaining the *Guidelines for Library Services to Teens* developed by a joint RUSA/YALSA task force in 2008:

<http://yalsa.ala.org/guidelines/referenceguidelines.pdf> /

<http://www.ala.org/rusa/resources/guidelines/guidelinesteens>.

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\*\*We are amenable to expanding or rewriting the current charge/function of the committee as needed.

Committee work will be determined by the committee co-chairs in conjunction with the YALSA President Elect and RSS Chair Elect.

### **Committee Structure**

- Appointment Process: Half of the members will be appointed by RSS; half will be appointed by YALSA.
- The group will consist of a chair from each division so they will serve as co-chairs.
- The committee will be both a virtual and face-to-face committee. Conference attendance will not be required. Individuals interested in serving who cannot attend ALA Annual are encouraged to volunteer as some of the work will be completed online, in such forms as: webinars, online discussions, and creating resource tools for use.
- Term of committee: Staggered 2-year appointments with opportunity for reappointment with 4 continuous years as the maximum.

### **Committee Evaluation**

Every 3 years the committee will be evaluated by YALSA via the O&B Committee. Additionally, the RSS Executive Committee will evaluate the work and relevance of the committee based on the RUSA Review Guidelines. The RSS Executive Committee will collaborate and communicate with the YALSA O&B Committee on the status and relevance of the committee.

### **Implementation Date**

Post ALA Annual (July 2013). The joint committee would begin its work after committee members have been appointed from both YALSA and RSS.

### **Proposed Action**

The YALSA board accept the proposal for an interdivisional committee and direct the President to appoint a YALSA co-chair and members.

Respectfully submitted,  
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