

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

Topic: Supporting Teen Services in Small & Rural Libraries

Background: YALSA’s vision statement says it seeks to ensure that “in every library in the nation, quality library service to young adults is provided by a staff that understands and respects the unique informational, educational and recreational needs of teenagers.” Yet we know that only 33% of libraries have at least one FTE for teen services (2012 PLDS Statistical Report). Furthermore, according to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), 77 of all public libraries are small, with a median staff of 2.5 FTE. Additionally, 47% of all public libraries are rural, with a median staff of 1.5 FTE. This data points to the likelihood that for the foreseeable future, the majority of public libraries will not have a dedicated teen services position on staff. This situation has profound implications for how YALSA should go about achieving its vision. Krista McKenzie, Sarajo Wentling and Beth Yoke have presented some information below for the Board’s consideration.

Action Required: Discussion

Additional Data

- In the 2012 YALSA member survey, only 22% of members identified themselves as “teen services librarians,” while 20% of respondents classified themselves as “other.” Examples of ‘other’ were wide ranging, including outreach librarian, reference librarian, adult services librarian, branch manager or a hybrid of more than one role.
- From 2004 to 2011 the number of school librarians shrank by 7%. An increasing number of schools are relying on volunteers, paraprofessionals and others to staff school libraries.
- Although most rural libraries are small, only half of small libraries are located in rural areas.
- In 2007, 81.7 percent of youth lived in urban or suburban areas, while about 9 percent lived in large and small/isolated rural areas.
- Youth in rural areas were more likely than urban children to be living in low-income families.

Rationale

- Data shows that the majority of public libraries, as well as shrinking numbers of school libraries, have no formal mechanism for delivering teen services

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- Only a minority of YALSA members identify themselves as ‘teen services librarians;’ therefore, increasing support to those who work with/for teens, but who work in a small or rural library where staff serve all ages could help YALSA make gains toward its vision
- The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: A Call to Action report identifies many areas where libraries need to evolve in order to better meet the needs of today’s teens. In order for small and rural libraries to embrace the report, they will need support from YALSA to assist with the change management process

Possible partners

- Association for Rural & Small Libraries
- ALA Committee on Rural, Native & Tribal Libraries
- COSLA and/or individual state library agencies
- state library associations
- Web Junction
- other?

Resources for the Rural Library Issue

- Rural Policy Research Institute
- National Center for Frontier Communities
- National Rural Assembly
- National Rural Education Association (have a conference Oct. 17-19 in San Antonio-- deadline for proposals is May 15)
- Rural Broadband Association
- Center for Rural Affairs
- “Community Development in Rural America,” by Cynthia Duncan:
<http://ow.ly/wFLPB>
- other?

Existing YALSA activities

- Bare Bones book (way out of date, but is being updated)
- In March reached out to ARSL about a joint webinar/CE effort -- playing phone tag
- Teen Services in 15 minutes wiki page
- 365 days of YA -- needs heavy editing to comply with the new report
- Ultimate YA Bookshelf -- could use updating

Possible new activities

Advocacy & Activism

- Create resources for small and rural libraries for summer reading/learning efforts, Teen Read Week™ and/or Teen Tech Week™

- Create an issue paper on the issue

Research & Best Practices

- Encourage the YALSAblog to create a regular column/feature focused on small or rural libraries
- Consider a small/rural themed issue for a future *YALS*
- Identify and highlight existing related resources from ALA and beyond to YALSA members
 - Adapt the resources, if necessary
- Revisit YALSA's portfolio of grants, awards, etc. to ensure they are small and rural library 'friendly,' and consider establishing categories based on a library's size for each award

Continuous Learning

- Create new CE on the topic, as appropriate, including creating Academy videos
- Ensure that existing CE offerings are inclusive of small and rural libraries
- Direct members towards existing CE from other organizations, either inside or outside ALA
- Participate in targeted conferences like the one hosted by the NREA

Member Engagement & Recruitment

- Recruit individuals to start an Interest Group on the topic
- Build out an issue focused page on the wiki seeded with a list of existing useful resources, further reading, etc. and then encourage members to add content to the page
- Set up an email listserv where individuals with an interest in the topic can connect

Capacity Building

- Identify and partner with outside organizations, as appropriate, to create resources and opportunities for members
- Identify ways YALSA could collaborate with and/or support other appropriate ALA groups, such as the ALA Committee on Rural, Native & Tribal Libraries of all Kinds
- Establish a member taskforce or standing committee to support the issue
- Determine whether there's a good opportunity to create and sell a particular product or service in relation to the issue

Possible Next Steps

- Recruit someone to update the Ultimate Teen Bookshelf
- Hire someone to refine the 365 Days of YA document
- Have a conversation with the YALSAblog manager and YALS editor to determine how best to incorporate small/rural library issues into the publications
- Recruit someone to expand the YA Services in 15 minutes wiki page into a more complete resource for non-teen services specialists
- Continue to pursue the possibility of working with ARSL

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- Determine whether a taskforce is warranted
- Make a formal decision to use data on small and rural libraries and the number of teen services librarians when framing board discussions and making decisions
- Other?

Additional Resources

- IMLS Report on Small and Rural Libraries,
www.ims.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/Brief2013_05.pdf (.pdf)
- Rural and Urban Children, <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/chusa12/pc/pages/ruc.html>
- U.S. Teen Demographics, www.actforyouth.net/health_sexuality/demographics/