

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Seattle
January 25 – 29, 2013**

Topic: YALS Editor Midwinter Report

Background: Linda Braun, the Member Editor of YALS, has provided the Board with a semi-annual report. The purpose of the journal is: 1) to serve as a vehicle for continuing education for librarians and library workers serving young adults; 2) to publish articles of current interest to the profession; 3) to showcase research and best practices in the field; 4) to provide news from related fields; 5) to spotlight significant events of the organization; 6) to offer in-depth reviews of professional literature and resources; and 7) to serve as the official record of the association.

Action Required: Consent

YALS Print Issues 2012

In 2012 YALS took a slight detour with its winter issue (traditionally the teens and tech issue) by going with the STEM theme. This was an extremely timely decision as STEM is an important focus for school and public libraries and supplying content on that topic provided members with information and resources that supports their knowledge and skills related to science, technology, engineering, and math collections, programs, and so on.

Megan Honig, the previous editor of YALS, edited the winter, spring and summer issues of the journal. The spring issue was the annual awards and lists issue and included reproducible content so that library staff working with teens are able to print-off YALSA's awards and lists. The issue also included articles on topics related to YALSA's awards and lists as well as on other awards and lists of interest to YALSA members and journal subscribers. The summer theme was teen reading and included a wide-selection of articles on topics from e-reading to reading with incarcerated teens.

Each fall the issue's theme is determined by the editor, YALSA staff and the YALS Editorial Advisory Board. Advocacy was the theme for fall 2012 and the issue included articles how to be a strong advocate for teen services in school and public libraries and articles on specific programs and services that provide advocacy opportunities for library staff working with teens. The fall issue was the first issue I edited and unfortunately two articles expected for the issue did not work out as hoped and I was unable to replace them in the time available.

The winter 2013 issue of the journal is scheduled to mail to members and subscribers on January 19. The theme of the issue is teens & tech and includes articles on Minecraft, apps for teens with autism, social media in schools and public libraries, and learning labs. This is the first issue for which I was responsible for all areas of content and it was exciting to see all of the pieces come together.

YALS Site Expansion and EAB

One of the areas that I have been working on is re-energizing the YALS website (<http://yalsa.ala.org/yals>). I have worked on this with Laura Pearle, the chair of the YALS Editorial Advisory Board, and the members of her group. Since the mailing of the fall issue, I and the EAB have been posting new content once a week, on Tuesdays, on the YALS site. The content is related to the theme of the current issue and is meant to expand on that content as well as drive readers to the issue. We will continue to post new content every Tuesday throughout 2013.

At this time the EAB's main focus is the journal's web presence and helping to develop content for it. Because of this revised focus, the Board is being asked at Midwinter Meeting to approve a change to the group's charge which will better outline their work related to both print and web-based YALS content.

Goals Planning for the Future

Over the next six months I would like to continue to expand and work on the YALS site. The weekly posting of content is a good start but it's important that we promote the site more strongly and look more closely at the look and feel of the journal's web presence. I will work with YALSA's new Manager of Communications, Jackie Finneke on these areas and will update the Board on changes in my Annual Conference YALS report.

As I've been working on YALS over the past few months I've become aware of two areas that we can expand on in the print journal. One is the content in the *View from ALA* section of the journal. This is a good opportunity to inform YALSA members of the larger ALA world and projects of the parent association and divisions. I plan on continuing to make contacts in the various divisions in order to expand the content in this section of YALS.

Another goal is to bring in more authors that are not staff of libraries. In the fall issue we included an article by an architect who has worked on learning labs spaces in public libraries. (Thanks to Beth Yoke for the connection to this architect/author.) On the YALS site in March there will be an article by a Stanford University student who is working with the Spark Truck - a traveling makerspace for young people. By including content from those outside of the traditional teen library services world on the site and in the journal we achieve two things. First, we help members and subscribers learn more about activities of import to teen services that are taking place in the larger world. Second, we help members of the larger education community learn about libraries, teens, library services to teens, and YALSA. My goal is to have at least one article in the journal or on the website for each issue of YALS.

--respectfully submitted, Linda W. Braun