

**YALSA Executive Committee Meeting  
October 21-22, 2011**

**Topic:** Curriculums and Instructional Kits

**Background:** YALSA's current continuing education portfolio includes synchronous and asynchronous learning options, all moderated by a member expert. For a variety of reasons, however, many organizations continue to conduct their own trainings. YALSA has fully developed two e-courses that address two topics state consultants have indicated they need help with: technology and adolescent behavior. Building off the content of these e-courses, YALSA can create two in-depth training manuals that can be marketed to state libraries as well as library systems. This manuals would both increase the caliber of training being offered at the state level and would provide an additional revenue stream for YALSA.

**Action Required:** Discussion

---

**Proposal:**

In summer 2011, YALSA surveyed state library agency youth consultants, including questions about the training needs in their state. In the survey, state consultants stated that they were interested in teen-focused training manuals; 59% indicated interest in a digital literacy/teens and technology manual, and 27% were interested in an adolescent development/behavior manual. These training manuals would provide state consultants and others with training responsibilities with information, activities, resources and readings that they could use and adapt in trainings with librarians in their state.

Currently, YALSA has online courses that address teens and technology and adolescent behavior/development. Using these courses as building blocks, YALSA can develop training manuals in these areas. YALSA can work with the two member experts who developed these courses to create the training manuals. Additionally, YALSA can benefit from analysis and adaptation of existing successful models, such as ALSC and PLA's Every Child Ready to Read curriculum.

When possible, content for the manuals would be designed to be evergreen, but YALSA would provide regularly updated supplements as needed. These supplements would incorporate new developments in the field. The complete manual would be revised and reissued on a set-schedule approximately every 5 years.

**Rationale:**

- Currently there is an acute lack of training manuals on library services to young adults. As a leader in the field, YALSA is a natural fit for producing these manuals.

- The manuals would be offered at a lower price point that YALSA's face to face institutes and so will be more affordable to state library agencies and library systems.
- The manuals represent a potential new revenue stream for YALSA
- One issue that repeatedly arose in the survey was a lack of resources in time, money and staff. For many of these state consultants, YALSA's CE options such as our day long face to face institutes are beyond their budget reach.
- Many of the librarians that state youth consultants work with are youth services librarians and library generalists, and have no specialized training in working with teens. These manuals would help to fill that training gap.
- Other organizations have had success in creating and selling curriculums, including ALSC & PLA's Every Child Ready to Read.
- Developing curriculum fits with YALSA's new strategic plan in two key ways: it provides a new path for continuing education opportunities to members and others, and increasing the number of library workers trained in serving teens can help YALSA with its advocacy efforts.
- Creating curriculums that members and trainers can use at the state or library levels can help increase YALSA's presence at the local level.

**Proposed Action:**

Refine the proposal if necessary, and recommend to the Board that it approve the creation of two training manuals focusing on teens and technology and adolescent behavior and direct staff to identify and work with member experts to create the curriculums.

**Additional Resources:**

- Results from state youth consultant survey - <http://svy.mk/qR25yq>
- ALSC & PLA's early literacy curriculum for libraries to use for parent training, Every Child Ready to Read: [www.everychildreadytoread.org/](http://www.everychildreadytoread.org/)

*--respectfully submitted by Eve Gaus*