

**YALSA Board of Directors ALA  
Midwinter Meeting, Denver  
February 9-12, 2018**

**Topic: Grants Update**

**Background: YALSA is administering four grant projects this fiscal year, including: Libraries Ready to Code Phase III, Transforming Teen Services Through Continuing Education, Future Ready with the Library, and Dollar General Everyone Reads at the Library. Taylor Crossley, Mega Subramaniam, and Beth Yoke have provided updates on these projects for the Board.**

**Action Required: Information**

**Libraries Ready to Code Phase III Update** [www.ala.org/tools/readytocode](http://www.ala.org/tools/readytocode)

The Ready to Code (RtC) project was launched in 2016, and is currently in its third phase. All three phases were made possible through generous sponsorship by Google, Inc.

**Phase I**

Phase I comprised a scan of the landscape of computational thinking (CT) and computer science (CS) activities and programs in public and school libraries across the United States. This scan identified priority areas including the identification of challenges and opportunities to plan, implement, and assess CT and CS programming and activities in US public and school libraries. The primary researchers for Phase I were Marijke Visser (Associate Director and Senior Policy Advocate at ALA OITP) and Linda Braun (LEO: Librarians & Educators Online), with an advisory board that consisted of public and school librarians, researchers, and faculty from library and information science (LIS) schools. Phase I resulted in a [white paper](#), a [policy brief](#), an [advocacy video](#), an [infographic](#), and the articulation of “RtC concepts” (which includes youth voice, community engagement, and facilitation of learning – details can be found in the white paper).

**Phase II**

Two priorities emerged from Phase 1 scan: (1) pre-service librarians pursuing MLIS need to be exposed to the RtC concepts, and (2) in-service librarians and library staff need opportunities to incorporate RtC concepts into the development and implementation of CT and CS programming at their libraries.

Priority 1 above directed the development of Phase II of RtC. In Phase II, six faculty at various MLIS and school librarian preparation programs across the nation received support and guidance to infuse RtC concepts into the design of their existing courses that are taken by students aspiring to work in both school and public libraries. Courses range from specific required courses that are offered as part of school library specializations such as *Digital Resources for Teaching and Learning* and *Multimedia Resources and Services* to courses

offered to students interested in working in both public and school libraries such as *STEM and Youth Learning in the Library*, *Design and Production of Multimedia*, *Youth Electronic Resources*, and *Youth Services Community Engagement*. There is also another course that was part of the redesign, *Promoting Rich Learning with Technology*, which is offered as part of the [Youth Experience \(YX\)](#) certificate program, pursued by current public librarians. This group of faculty regularly interacted with the RtC team for Phase II (Marijke Visser and Mega Subramaniam as project PIs, Linda Braun as the researcher, and Caitlin Martin as the external evaluator). The RtC team collected data in the form of faculty surveys, faculty interaction/discussion online and in-person, course artifacts, course syllabi, student surveys, and student focus groups, to evaluate the success and challenges of Phase II. The researcher and the external evaluator are currently conducting data analysis. There will be a white paper that will be published right before ALA Annual Meeting 2018 that will share how the faculty included RtC concepts in their courses, the challenges and opportunities faced by faculty and students in these courses, and the resulting seven RtC model syllabi that will serve as examples to other library faculty that are interested in infusing RtC into their syllabus.

### Phase III

The second priority that emerged from Phase I scan resulted in Phase III of the RtC. Phase III is currently underway and is being administered by YALSA in partnership with AASL, ALSC and OITP. Through the generous sponsorship of Google, a request for proposal was made available to public and school library staff across the nation to design, implement, and evaluate CT and CS programs. The RtC team received over 400 applications. The selection committee for Phase III grant comprised of representatives from ALSC, AASL, YALSA, and OITP.

In October 2017, ALA announced more than \$500,000 in grants for 28 libraries (6 school and 22 public) in 21 states plus the District of Columbia to design and implement coding programs that foster CT skills development for young people from birth to 18. This cohort of libraries is also designing a toolkit with Google that will be made freely available online to help other libraries interested in providing CT and CS programs and services to their community. The cohort activities are ongoing, with the cohort sharing experiences through a community of practice space, weekly webinars, weekly surveys, and regularly interacting with the RtC team and Google. This phase will end on October 2018 and will result in exemplary case studies of CS and CT in libraries, a toolkit, and advocacy materials for use with decision makers at the national, state, and local levels.

*--submitted by Mega Subramaniam is the ALA OITP Fellow for Libraries RtC*

### **Future Ready with the Library** <http://bit.ly/2DOSSDw>

This IMLS project is in year two of a three-year timeline. Each year a different cohort of library staff from small, rural, and tribal libraries receives a mix of in-person and online training and support to plan and carry out a local project aimed at helping middle schoolers explore career options or prepare for college. In-person training for the second cohort took place just prior to the 2018 Midwinter Meeting. Learning and sharing happens throughout the year for each cohort via an online community created within YALSA's Teen Programming HQ. At the end of the project, a MOOC will be held so that best practices developed with the cohorts can be shared with the library community.

## Transforming Teen Services through Continuing Education

<http://bit.ly/2vJY2HX>

This one-year project launched in June 2017. This is an IMLS-funded National Forum grant, whose focus is to engage the library community and others in a discussion about the continuing education needs of front-line library staff in relation to teen services. The product of this year-long effort will be to publish a national agenda for CE in teen services. An in-person session was held in November after the symposium for approximately 50 state library agency representatives who were invited to attend. Online forums were held in late January as a follow up to the in-person session to gather more information from the broader library community. The next step is to draft the CE agenda and share it out for public comment.

*--submitted by Beth Yoke*

## Dollar General Literacy Foundation

**Teen Read Week™** ([www.ala.org/teenread](http://www.ala.org/teenread))

Teen Read Week was celebrated Oct. 8 – 14, 2017 with the theme of “Unleash Your Story.” The 2018 theme is It’s Written in the Stars: READ, and features a sci-fi/fantasy theme.

### Online Community Members

The membership on the site tends to grow significantly in the weeks and days leading up to Teen Read Week. As of Jan 16, we are at **5,656** members. That is **616** new members from the previous report.

**Google Analytics** (June 7-October 31: From the last reported date through the end of the month of TRW)

Page views: **72,775** (Note: Repeated views of a single page are counted)

Pages with the most views:

- Landing page: **30,140**
- Activity Ideas: **6,334**
- Planning page: **4,248**
- Publicity tools: **3,635**
- Official Products: **3,075**

Sessions (A session is the period of time a user is actively engaged with the website)

- Total sessions: **32,372**
- New visitors: **21,282** (An estimate of the percentage of first time visits):
- Returning visitors: **10,090**

### TRW Grants

The grant focus was around the theme of “Unleash Your Story”, and applicants were encouraged to demonstrate how the funds would be used to support teens in writing, telling and sharing their own stories. We saw an increase in the amount of grant applicants for our 2017 TRW grant.

- 2017: 46 applicants
- 2016: 26 applicants
- 2015: 58 applicants

- 2014: 62 applicants
- 2013: 17 applicants

### Teens' Top Ten ([www.ala.org/teenstopten](http://www.ala.org/teenstopten))

YALSA announced the 2017 Teens' Top Ten (TTT) list on October 19th. The titles were chosen on by teens from 26 nominations and published between Jan. 1, 2016 and Dec. 31, 2016. They can be found on the TTT website and will soon be in the Teen Book Finder Database and App. Voting on the titles began August 15<sup>th</sup> and ran through October 14<sup>th</sup>, the end of Teen Read Week.

We'll soon be gathering the 2018 Teens' Top Ten nominations from the most popular titles among the YAGalley groups. The 2018 TTT nominees will be announced on April 12<sup>th</sup> during National Library Week.

### Summer Learning\_ (<http://summerreading.ning.com/>)

The Summer Learning site is a platform where library staff and others can share and utilize resources related to summer learning programs. The site is also where the links to the Summer Learning Resources Grant applications can be found and where grant recipients can communicate with each other.

### Google Analytics (June 7 – January 1, 2017)

Page views: **9,566**

Pages with the most views:

- Summer Reading Grants: **6,176**
- Landing page: **856**
- Book lists: **249**
- Recommended Reading: **200**

Sessions (A session is the period of time a user is actively engaged with the website):

- Total sessions: **7,015**
- New visitors: **5,358**
- Returning visitors: **1,657**

### Summer Grants <https://summerreading.ning.com/>

This year we continued to offer a total of forty summer grants – twenty Summer Learning Resources and twenty Summer Teen Intern grants. A taskforce is vetting them now and will announce the names of the successful applicants in mid-February.

#### Summer Learning Resources Grant

2018: 70 applications  
 2017: 49 applications  
 2016: 68 applications  
 2015: 77 applications  
 2014: 65 applications

#### Summer Teen Intern Grant

2018: 89 applications  
2017: 77 applications  
2016: 76 applications  
2015: 84 applications  
2014: 89 applications

**Teen Book Finder** <http://booklists.yalsa.net/>

- *App*
  - YALSA’s iPhone app, the Teen Book Finder has had over 1,750 downloads through the Apple App Store since January 2016.
  - The Android version of the Teen Book Finder app has had over 6,200 downloads since its release in August of 2014.
  - After Midwinter the developer will update the app with all the 2018 awards and lists, as well as the awards and lists from the ALA affiliates and round tables who have YA titles.
- *Online Database*
  - The Teen Book Finder site was officially launched in February of 2017. Since its release, it has had over 248,000 page views and over 67,000 sessions (the period of time a user is actively engaged with the website).
  - The database has already been updated by staff with the 2018 Quick Picks and Amazing Audiobooks final selections
  - The database will soon be updated by staff with 2018 YALSA award titles
  - ALA affiliate and Roundtable award and selected list titles are being added to the database as they are received
  - The ability to add cover art on the admin side was recently added to the database and throughout the year more covers will be added to titles missing.

*--Submitted by Taylor Crossley, YALSA Communications Assistant*