

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Chicago  
January 30 – February 2, 2015**

**Topic:** JRLYA Editor Midwinter Report

**Background:** Denise Agosto, the Member Editor of *JRLYA*, has provided the Board with a semi-annual report. As editor, Denise works closely with the *JRLYA* Advisory Board. The journal is YALSA’s peer-reviewed, open source research journal that launched in November 2010 as part of the Board’s strategy for addressing the Research & Best Practices goal in the strategic plan.

**Action Required:** Consent

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**1. Manuscript Submissions**

Since the previous report in July, we have received eleven paper submissions. Reviewers rejected three of them. Reviewers requested revisions, ranging from minor to major, on seven of the eight remaining papers, all seven of which I accepted after the requested revisions were made. Reviews on the eleventh paper are still pending. This means that we have a current acceptance rate of 70%, which is significantly higher than in the past. The higher acceptance rate is a result of my moving from general calls for submissions to targeted calls for special issues. The success of the special issue model in bringing in higher quality submissions and a steadier stream of submissions indicates that it is a good model to follow in the future.

The seven accepted papers are for three special issues. The first special issue will honor the work of Prof. Eliza Dresang, a long-time youth service researcher who died in April of 2014. Five papers were submitted for this issue, four of which were accepted for publication. For the second special issue, I put out a call for papers relating to YALSA’s “Future of Library Services” report. Unfortunately, despite repeated advertising, we received no submissions. I ended up asking one of our Board members to write a paper we could use for the issue, and I had one paper that had been submitted previously that I could use for it. Thus, the issue will contain two papers. The third and final special issue will feature papers from YALSA’s 2014 Young Adult Literature Symposium. I invited Symposium paper authors to submit their full papers for consideration for publication. Two did submit, and revised versions of both papers were accepted for publication.

**2. Mid-Winter Paper Presentation Award Papers**

As a contingency of winning the award, YALSA Mid-Winter Paper Presentation authors agree to publish their papers in *JRLYA*. Prof. *Mega* Subramaniam will deliver the 2015 Mid-

Winter Paper. She and I have already begun discussing her paper. She plans to submit it to me in January for a targeted summer 2015 publication.

### 3. Current Issues/Difficulties

We have not published any new papers since May, which is problematic. For the journal to remain operational, we need to have regular publications. All of the content for the first special issue is ready to go to publication, but it is being held up in the copy editing stage, as the copy editor is currently too busy to edit the one remaining paper for the issue. As soon as she edits that paper, we will be able to submit the issue for publication. I have notified Anna Lam of the problem and am hoping for a quick resolution.

In addition, it has been about three years since previous editor Sandra Hughes-Hassell first noted that the journal site needs a redesign. We are still waiting on the redesign, which should include moving toward pdf format for published papers. Doing so would facilitate printing and reading and possibly increase readership. AASL's *School Library Research* (<http://www.ala.org/aasl/slr/vol17>) would serve as a good model for such a format. I have also suggested that the journal staff look into getting *JRYAL* indexed by EBSCO's Library Literature database (<http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/library-literature-information-science-full-text>) to increase visibility to library school students, library school faculty, and others. Library Lit already indexes many ALA journals, including online journals such as *School Library Research* and *YALS*, and they used to index the now-defunct *Journal of Youth Services in Libraries*. Increased visibility is crucial to improving the influence and reputation of the *JRLYA*.

#### **Additional Resources**

JRLYA website, <http://yalsa.ala.org/jrlya>