

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, San Francisco
June 26 – 30, 2015**

Topic:	<i>JRLYA</i> Editor Report for Annual
Background:	Denise E. Agosto, the Member Editor of <i>JRLYA</i>, has provided the Board with an annual report. The journal is YALSA’s peer-reviewed, open source research journal, launched in November 2010 as part of the Board’s strategy for addressing the research goal in the strategic plan.
Action Required:	Consent

Updates

1. Manuscript Submissions and Solicitation Efforts

JRLYA continues to have a good stream of papers coming in for review. Since the previous report in December, we have received six paper submissions. Reviewers rejected three of them. Reviewers requested revisions, ranging from minor to major, on two others of these submissions, both of which I accepted after the requested revisions were made. Reviews on the remaining paper are pending. This means that we have a current acceptance rate of about 50%, which is respectable for a research publication.

In response to longstanding difficulty in attracting sufficient numbers of high quality research papers to sustain the journal, I have experimented with theme-based issues over the past year. This model seems to be working well, resulting in generally higher quality and higher numbers of submissions. I plan to continue the special issue model for the foreseeable future.

I have also begun writing posts for the YALSA blog to publicize each new issue as it is published. Hopefully the blog posts will encourage more YALSA members to read the journal and to spread journal news via social media.

2. Published Issues and Planned Future Issues

Issues published since the December report include:

- January 2015: Eliza Dresang Memorial issue, featuring papers in honor of the research of the late Prof. Dresang.
- March 2015: The Future of Library Services issue, with papers written in response to the 2014 YALSA report.
- April 2015: Selected Papers from the 2014 YALSA Young Adult Literature Symposium, including Symposium papers that reported research studies and were accepted by peer reviewers.

Our next issue will be a special issue featuring research papers with clear connections to library practice. Three authors have notified me that they will be submitting papers; there will likely be additional submissions as well. Assuming that authors meet the June 30, 2015, deadline, I expect we will publish the issue in the late summer or early fall. The abbreviated CFP (call for papers) follows:

Journal of Research on Libraries & Young Adults (JRLYA) is accepting submissions for a special issue highlighting **research-based best practices for serving young adults in libraries**, including studies of library services, papers reporting original research and suggesting application to practice, and papers describing how research was used to guide the design, implementation, or evaluation of library services. Researchers, librarians, graduate students, and others are invited to submit manuscripts by **June 30, 2015**. Papers describing both scholarly research and action research are welcome and will be submitted for peer review and consideration for publication. Writer's guidelines are located at <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/jryla/author-guidelines/>. Email manuscripts and related queries to editor Dr. Denise Agosto at: yalsaresearch@gmail.com.

3. 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 delivered the 2015 Mid-Winter Paper. She plans to submit her paper to me some time during June.

NOTE: Because there is no deadline for authors to submit their Mid-Winter Presentation papers to *JRLYA*, each year I send many frustrating hours setting deadlines for authors and then resetting deadlines when they miss them, and writing reminders to authors asking them to submit their papers. Due to author delays, the papers are ending up being published up to nearly a year after the presentations. I suggest that the Mid-Winter Paper Presentation committee edit the CFP to include a deadline for submitting winning papers to *JRLYA*, preferably no longer than three months after the presentation dates.

4. Current Issues/Difficulties

All is going quite well with the journal operations, with one exception. It has been over three years since previous editor Sandra Hughes-Hassell first noted that the journal site needs a redesign. AASL's *School Library Research* (<http://www.ala.org/aasl/slr/vol17>) would serve as a good model for an improved format. We do now include pdf's of each paper for easier printing, but the journal is still difficult to navigate, and the design looks unprofessional. I have also suggested that 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*. If other researchers can't find our papers in academic indexes, then the papers have limited impact and readership. Anna Lam has inquired with EBSCO, but has not yet heard back from them.