

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Atlanta
January 20 – 24, 2017

Topic: Phase 1 for Selected List Transition

Background: As part of the August 2016 board document “Recommendations for Transforming Remaining Work Groups,” a Selected List Transition taskforce was created to offer recommendations for transitioning selected lists to The Hub in two phases: the first to take place in 2017 with Amazing Audiobooks, Popular Paperbacks and Quick Picks. Throughout the fall of 2016, the group worked virtually to create a draft plan, shared the draft plan with members and gathered feedback during an online member chat in Nov., and then reworked the plan based on that feedback. The plan was then submitted back to the Leading the Transformation of Teen Services Board Standing Committee to ensure alignment with YALSA mission and Organizational Plan, and that the plan addressed the stated goals of the project (see below). The standing board committee, chaired by Crystle Martin, presents this latest version to the Board for their consideration.

Action Required: Action

Task: Create a transition plan to transition selected lists to The Hub, starting in 2017 with: Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults (AA), Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults (PP), and Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers (QP).

Rationale/Goals:

- Provide more timely information
- Share information in an easier to use format
- Create new resources to meet the needs of today’s diverse teens
- Ensure the flexibility to embrace new formats as they emerge
- Include new and diverse voices in the process
- Create new resources for library staff beyond traditional collection development and readers’ advisory tools

Charge of the Taskforce:

Draft a transition plan for evolving Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults (AAYA), Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults (PPYA) and Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers (QP) onto the Hub. Revise blog guidelines as needed and draft streamlined procedures addressing member engagement, youth participation, field suggestions, nominations, evaluation processes, appearance, discovery (tagging and categorizing), and annual best lists. In addition, the taskforce should consider relevant board documents and discussions, town halls, and member input shared with board members. The plan includes a suggested implementation and evaluation time line and

should be submitted to the board for review by Dec. 1, 2016. Taskforce size: 6-8 virtual members including the coordinator, including one board member, one O&B member, one Hub representative, and individuals who have served on selection committees. Term: Sept. 1, 2016 through Jan. 31 2017.

Basic structure for selected lists on The Hub:

- 10 – 15 bloggers for the Quick Picks (QP) and Amazing Audiobooks (AA) lists will be identified through an application process and commit to one calendar year of service, beginning each January 1st (for the 2017 transition this will be Feb.). Each group of bloggers will be led by a Coordinator, who will oversee the work of the group, serve on the Hub Advisory Board, and liaise with the Hub Manager and staff.
- Nominations for QP and AA will occur on a rolling, continuous basis, which also means blog posts will be published in the same manner.
- QP and AA bloggers will write nomination posts on books they have read and that have then been nominated. All books will have a primary and secondary reader to create a process similar to what review journals use, where fewer readers are involved in the nomination process for lists. The primary reader writes a blog post as soon as both readers have agreed to the book. This creates more timely sharing of resources while still maintaining the quality of the list.
- Lists of nominees will be available on The Hub, and posts will be search-able for easy, timely access. Final lists will be added to the Teen Book Finder Database and App. Lists will indicate which titles are widely available in Spanish.
- At the end of the calendar year, a “Best of” list is created through QP and AA bloggers selecting and voting on nominated titles.

Person(s) Responsible	Description of Responsibilities
<p>QP/AA Bloggers within the Hub</p>	<p>Members who want to serve as bloggers for QP or AA will submit an application. Applications will be reviewed by the Hub Manager and the AA or QP coordinator (defined below). Applications will be designed to solicit a diversity of experience and voices. 10 to 15 members will be sought for both QP and for AA.</p> <p>Bloggers will: Read and vet titles. Titles may be e-versions. E-versions allow inclusion of more books from smaller publishers who may not be able to afford the cost of shipping hard copies; this helps to create a more diverse pool of books to choose from. It also lessens the labor and cost involved in shipping.</p> <p>Primary readers create blog posts for titles as bloggers finish reading each title that is nominated, this creates faster access for members and the library community.</p> <p>Post titles and comments to shared internal document</p>

	<p>Create other blog posts for their list as appropriate, such as round-ups, spotlights or remixes</p> <p>Vote on nominations, including voting on the “Best of” list at the year's end</p> <p>Assist with the development of annotations for titles that are selected to appear on the Best of list.</p> <p>Participate in virtual blogger meetings (a quarterly schedule is suggested initially, but bloggers should adjust as needed)</p> <p>Comply with Hub Blogger Guidelines and all applicable ALA and YALSA policies</p>
<p>Group Coordinators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each list has its own coordinator ● Assigns tasks/titles to bloggers ● With Hub Manager and Award & Selected List Oversight Committee, trains bloggers ● Periodically writes remix or round-up posts about books nominated for QP and AA, or identifies someone to do this. ● Communicates regularly with bloggers, YALSA staff, and Hub Manager. ● Organizes bloggers for blog posts. ● Plans and leads virtual meetings. ● Maintains internal document to track titles received, nominees, etc. ● Facilitates procedural questions. ● Coordinates final vote of “Best” list. ● Gives information to Hub Manager to include in quarterly reports to YALSA. ● Assemble the “Best of” lists, including leading the group in writing the annotations.
<p>Staff</p>	<p>Maintains relationship with publishers, and contacts them for access to requested titles.</p> <p>Informs publishers of AA/QP blogger list.</p> <p>Creates, maintains, and advertises application forms and shares applications with the Hub Manager and Coordinators</p> <p>Maintains a list of Bloggers and Coordinators</p>

	<p>Shares posts and lists through communication outlets.</p> <p>Works with the web developer to add final lists to the Teen Book Finder App and Database.</p> <p>Provides support to Coordinators and Hub Manager.</p> <p>Interprets policy issues for member volunteers</p> <p>Collects feedback from member volunteers and makes recommendations for changes or improvements to the process to the Board</p>
<p>Selection of members for QP/AA Groups:</p>	<p>The Hub Manager selects group Coordinators through an application process. The Coordinators serve ex-officio on The Hub Advisory Board.</p> <p>The Coordinators select bloggers from applications submitted by members</p> <p>The Hub Manager and Coordinator must balance gender, ethnicity, geographic, experience, type of library, etc. to have a diverse group and comply with YALSA’s Statement on Diversity. To ensure diverse group membership, Coordinators may solicit members to apply</p> <p>Coordinators and Bloggers must be current, personal members of YALSA</p> <p>For the 2017 transition, all AA and QP Committee members who were eligible to serve another year will be personally invited to blog for the Hub. The application will go online in Feb. Moving forward, the application will be available each fall, so that groups are in place and ready to work by Jan. 1st of each year.</p>
<p>Teens</p>	<p>Bloggers are encouraged to engage teens at the local level.</p> <p>Coordinators and bloggers should solicit teen feedback and gather teen quotes for blog posts through online polls, local surveys, etc.</p> <p>Teens can be list bloggers, writing posts and nominating titles. They could also participate in the vote. They will need to go through training like all other bloggers. A separate application</p>

	<p>process will be needed for teens, perhaps with a recommendation from an adult (e.g. library staff, teacher, or out-of-school provider).</p> <p>As capacity allows, the Hub Manager and Coordinators can work with staff to host feedback sessions from local teens at Midwinter, Annual and/or the Symposium to get input and to create more interest in The Hub and AA/QP.</p> <p>YALSA may not incur any costs for teen input/participation.</p>
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Logistics	Description
Hub Management	<p>Hub Advisory and the Award and Selected List Oversight Committee will oversee blogger training and leverage existing YALSA resources to do so, and develop new as needed</p> <p>Hub Manager will provide sample posts.</p> <p>Hub Manager and AA/QP Coordinators will communicate on a regular basis.</p> <p>Hub Manager and Advisory Board will update and/or create guidelines for the Hub, including public comment guidelines</p> <p>Hub Manager is invited to virtual meetings of blogger groups.</p> <p>Hub Advisory Board provides social media support in coordination with YALSA Communications Assistant</p> <p>Hub Manager will offer guidance, support, and expertise for Coordinators throughout term as needed</p> <p>Hub Manager position description and Advisory Board charge is updated to indicate expanded role</p> <p>Hub Manager communicates with YALSA Board and staff regarding the possible need to expand into a co-manager format, and/or increase the size or change the make-up of the Advisory Board</p> <p>Hub Manager communicates with YALSA staff regarding any possible back-end improvements needed to the site in order to accommodate AA/QP</p>
	Posts must:

Logistics	Description
<p>Hub Posts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be timely - be search-able - be consistent -have controlled vocabulary -have maximum word count -use tags (e.g. QuickPick, PopularPaperback or AmazingAudio for search-ability) - be written for an audience that is primarily library staff - utilize best practices for accessibility - include: title, author, ISBN, publishing date, publisher, image of cover, and short summary <p>Bloggers will make nomination posts based on the shared internal document and could also create other posts, such as round-ups, spotlights or remixes.</p> <p>Posts should leverage different formats, such as print, audio, images, video, etc. as appropriate, and depending on the particular title and format</p> <p>Anyone (excepting authors and publishers) can make a field suggestion. This suggestion is sent to the appropriate Coordinator. The Coordinator shares it with their group.</p> <p>AA/QP bloggers contribute to their own shared internal document and write posts about the nominated titles</p>
<p>Group Work and Discussions</p>	<p>All work will be conducted virtually.</p> <p>There are no required face-to-face activities.</p> <p>Coordinators organize regular discussions with their group, which can happen synchronously and/or asynchronously.</p> <p>Coordinators can use all of the resources in the YALSA Chair Manual to facilitate virtual work</p>
<p>Final List for QP/AA</p>	<p>In addition to the rolling/continuous nomination posts, there will be a “Best of” list for each list (Best of AA, Best of QP).</p> <p>Best of lists must not include every nominated title.</p> <p>To make the Best of list, 100% AA and QP bloggers must vote yes</p>

Logistics	Description
	<p>The Best of titles will be posted as soon as they're available; ideally Dec., but Jan. at the latest.</p> <p>The final lists will be posted on The Hub, and added to the Teen Book Finder App & Database. YALSA communication channels will be leveraged to promote them</p> <p>Final lists will be annotated by the AA/QP bloggers and written for a librarian/library staff audience</p> <p>The Hub Manager and Coordinators will want to explore the possibility of pre-determining a maximum size for the lists, such as the top 25 titles</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>The YALSA web site will have language and a link to the Hub explaining the change in location and process for the lists.</p> <p>Existing ALA and YALSA policies will apply to the Hub Coordinators and Bloggers, such as YALSA's policy on Ethical Behavior for Volunteers and ALA's policy limiting participation on any one appointed group to 4 consecutive years, after which a break is required.</p> <p>Per the Board's decision in June 2016, the work of the existing Popular Paperbacks Committee has already been taken on by the Hub, which publishes timely, themed lists year-round. Therefore a special, appointed group is not warranted for this list, as existing bloggers have proven capable of handling this.</p> <p>Beginning in 2017, however, the Hub will begin using a tag (such as PopularPaperback) to indicate when posts are focused on this format. There will be no nominations process, nor will there be a final Best of list.</p>

Evaluation:

- The Hub Member Manager and Coordinators will make adjustments as needed throughout the transition year
- In July 2017, the President will organize a conference call with the staff liaison, The Hub Member Manager, Coordinators, and the Chair of the Award and Selected List Oversight Committee to discuss progress and strategies for phase 2

- At the end of the first year the President will assemble a member group to evaluate the transition and make recommendations for moving forward. The evaluation will measure to what degree the stated goals were achieved:
 - Provide more timely information
 - Share information in an easier to use format
 - Create new resources to meet the needs of today’s diverse teens
 - Ensure the flexibility to embrace new formats as they emerge
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Fiscal Impacts:

- Members’ volunteer time as bloggers and coordinators, The Hub Member Manager, the Advisory Board, and the Award and Selected List Oversight Committee
- Ongoing staff time to support the work of The Hub, liaise with publishers, promote The Hub and the lists, and maintain and update the Teen Book Finder Database & App.
- It is anticipated that after the initial change, these tasks will take less member leader and staff time than supporting the selection committees did (in part due to the eliminated need to receive, inventory, pack and ship books to/from conferences, and the changes to the appointments process)
- Financial expense of updating the app and database (this is already being budgeted for, due to the other lists and the awards)
- Possible financial expense of adding more manager level members to the Hub, if it turns out this is warranted

Proposed Board Action:

The Board accepts the proposal and directs the Executive Director to work with staff to support The Hub Manager in carrying out the transition plan.

The Board directs The Hub Manager and Advisory Board to make the necessary changes as outlined in this proposal and to leverage quarterly Chair reports to keep the Board informed as to successes and challenges with the transition process.

Additional Resources:

- June 2016 Board Document, “Confirmation of Select Member Work Group Realignment,” http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/OrgPlan_GroupChanges_AN16.doc
- June 2016 Board Document, “Determining Workplan for Remaining Member Work Group Realignment,” http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/OrgPlan_FinishingCmtes_AN16.doc
- August 2016 Board document, “Recommendations for Transforming Select Member Groups,” <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/RemainingCommitteeReview.pdf>
- PowerPoint Slides showing YALSA committees' transition to accommodate new types of member engagement, http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/Restructuring_Before_After.pptx

- Selected List Transition Taskforce First Draft of Recommendations, http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/SelectedLists_1stDraftRecommendation.pdf
- The Hub, <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/>
- Teen Book Finder Database, <http://booklists.yalsa.net/>
- YALSA Organizational Plan, <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/aboutyalsa/strategicplan>