

**NATIONAL RESEARCH AGENDA
ON LIBRARIES, LEARNING, & TEENS
2017-2021**

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Background

History of the YALSA Research Agenda

The mission of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) is “to support library staff in alleviating the challenges teens face, and in putting all teens — especially those with the greatest needs — on the path to

5...]MFU]YgUbXa i gY a gI UbXhYdYcd'Yh Ymgfj YI ghLbXhc VbyUhZca VWwa]b['a cfY]bhbhcbU' and purposeful about accommodating the lifelong learning needs of people in the 21st century, and doing h.lgkcf_ W'UcFUhj Ym]bU][ba Ybhk]h Wa a i b]hmbYXgI fhg]h hYcZA i gY a UbX@MFUnGMj]Wgž &&S- žd"*L

FYWhhrž =A @G' hi fbYX']lg' ZWg']b' dUfhib' VHM' i bXYfgLbX]b['\ck' '\MFU]Ubg' Wb' kcf_ 'lc' WMUY dUfh]M]Ucfm'Yfb]b['cdcfhi b]h]Yg' Zcf' h Yf' dUfcbg" =b' h Yf' &&% ' fYdcflž =A @G': cWg' @Yfb]b[']b' @]MFU]Ygžh YU YbW'XgM]VYX\ck' dUfh]M]Ucfm'Yfb]b[' Wb' VYUfUbgZfa Uj YI dYf]YbWk\Yb']MFum' staff embrace the elements of active learning and social learning when developing participatory learning dfc[fUa g'Zcf' h Yf' dUfcbg" Gja]'F'nžh Y&&% '5gdYb' =bg]h hY'F'Ydcflž@]MFU]Yg]b' h Y9l dcbYb]U' 5[Y notes, "As the role of the library evolves beyond access and lending to providing a platform for learning, innovation and creativity, libraries need to think in dramatically different ways and develop new approaches lc' h Yf' kcf_]b']bYk]h h.lgWUb[]b[fc' YI' fi Ufa Yžd" %L

H YhYbg'cZcXhUFYdUfhcZub Yj Yf['cVU UbXWa dY]h] YgV]Mn'H YnbYXg_]'ggYgh' Uh[c VYncbXh Y hfUX]hcbU UWXa]WbX]b]lc' 'Yfb]b['UbX]b]bcj U]cb'g_]'g' 7i ffYbhria Ubn'Ybg' UW'h YgYg_]'g'Zcf' 'cV fYU]bYgg'UbXg Wgg'Zcf' h YZ' hi fY' H' Yf]g'cdcfhi b]h]m'Zcf' '\MFU]Yg'lc' a Yh' h YgYbYXg]b' h Yd\ng]W' UbX'j]fi U' gdUWg' lc' dfcj]X' WbbYMX' Yfb]b['cdcfhi b]h]Yg'k]h 'Y' dYf]g' UbX' Wa a i b]hma Ya Vfg' fbfU b Yh'U'ž&&% žd" ' E'

Research Questions

1. < ck 'XcYg'Z bX]b['Zcf' hYb' gmfj]Wg'WffYU'hc' dfcj]X]b['\][\ 'ja dUW]bZfa U' UbXZfa U' 'Yfb]b[' opportunities for teens?
2. K \UhX]ZZfYbWg]b W' 'Y] YUbXWfYf' fYU]bYgg'Xc hYbg'Yl \]hVgYXcb' h Yf' dUfh]M]U]cb]b']MFum' related formal and informal learning opportunities?
3. < ck 'UFY'ni b['UXi 'h'g'gh'Wb]h' fmlbXYa Yf[]b['\]h'fUM]Yg'g_]'g'g' ddcfhiX'UbXYb\UbW'X'h'fci ['\ h'Y use of libraries?
4. K \UhUFY'h Yd'cg]VY]b]h'f'g'W]cbg'V]h'k Yb' 'ni h' d'Yf' W'h' fYz]b]h'f'Yg'ž'UbX'UWX'a]Wg' V'Y'Wg' h'Uh library staff can use to build meaningful learning among youth that take advantage of both the library's UbX'h Y'Wa a i b]h'g'Y']g]b['fYci f'W'g'f]]fi U'ž' i a Ubz'Wa a i b]h'ž'Y'W'Z
5. < ck 'Wb' '\MFum]g'UZZ' \Yd' h'Ybg' Xj Ycd' Ya Yf[]b['\]h'fUM]Yg'ž' WYU]b['b'Yk' 'k'Ung' cZ]b]h'fUM]cb' UbX thinking?
6. < ck 'a][\h']MFum]g'UZZ' WUY'cdcfhi b]h]Yg'Zcf' 'ni h' lc' Wbb'W'h' Yf' \ca YZ'Wa a i b]h'mlbXYa Yf[]b[' literacies with traditional library programming?
7. < ck 'Wb' h' Y7cbb'YMX'@Yfb]b[': fUa Ykcf_ 'V'YZZ'W]j Ym'Va d'cm'X]b' g'Wcc' 'UbX'di V]W]MFU]Yg'lc' develop meaningful and powerful literacies and 21st century skills instruction?
8. < ck 'XcYg' h' Y]b]h' fU]cb'cZ'ni h' j c]WdfUM]Wg]b' h'Yb' '\MFum]g'fj]Wg' \Uj YUb]a dUW]cb' h'Yb' 'Yfb]b[' through libraries?
9. < ck 'Wb' di V]W]MFU]Yg'UbX'g'Wcc' g'kcf_ 'lc['Yh' Yf' lc' Xj Ycd' Wbb'YMX]bZfa U' UbXZfa U' 'Yfb]b[' opportunities for

Vn? n̄b|kcb?c\žUbX>i bY5WUgž17ca dYm̄bVWgBYXXl̄c Dfcj |XYHYb @]VfUn̄Gfj]WḡcZ̄h̄Y: i li fY·
 5·Ḡ fj YncZDfcZgḡcbUg]b @Yfb]b| @UgUbXA U_YfgdUWḡ fYḡMFWYfgZ̄i bXh̄Uh̄iH̄ Ya cgh̄Z̄Yei Ybhm̄
 reported competencies that participants said they did not learn from higher education fall into the areas
 cZ f̄L̄: Wbh̄a dcfUfm̄h̄Wbc`c|]Yḡz̄ f̄L̄: A U_YfgdUWḡz̄ fl̄ E: a UbU Ya Ybl̄z̄ fl̄ E: Wa a i b]hm̄Ux̄j cWm̄h̄UbX
 dUfb̄Yfḡ\]dḡz̄UbXf] L̄h̄UW]b| `UbXdfc[fUa a]b| "H̄ YḡYWa dYm̄bVWḡUfYWc̄ḡYmfYUHXl̄c h̄ YH̄ḡ ḡh̄ Ym̄
 X]Xbch̄Z̄Y dfYdUFYXl̄c Xc̄z̄ḡ WUḡf̄L̄k cf_]b| k]h̄ bYk h̄Wbc`c|]YḡUbXA U_]b| `h̄cc`ḡz̄f̄L̄Ux̄j cWm̄h̄z̄fl̄ E
 cVh̄U]b|b| `Z̄ bX]b| ž UbX f̄L̄Z̄W]H̄U]b| `Yfb]b| `T̄ f̄h̄d. ##k k k "n̄UḡU'U'cf| #f̄n̄U#&S% #S* #W̄a dYm̄bVWḡ
 !bYXXl̄c! dfcj |X]!h̄Yb!]VfUn̄Gfj]WḡcZ̄h̄Y!Z̄ hi fY!Uḡ fj YncZDfcZgḡcbUg]b| `Yfb]b| ! `UḡUbX
 !a U_YfgdUWḡ#)

=bḡ]h̄ h̄cbḡḡ W`Uḡh̄ YI b]j Yfḡh̄m̄cZA Ufm̄UbX]GWcc`UFY ḡUf]b| `dfc[fUa ḡh̄Uik]` dfcj |XY `]VfUn̄
 ḡUZZk]h̄ `Yxi W]h̄cbU` cddcfi b]h̄Yḡ bYXX" H̄ YI A 8 `]GWcc` dfc[fUa ž h̄h̄YX M̄i h̄ `9l̄ dY]YbW MLž
 I""k]` dfYdUFY `YUXf̄ḡz̄ Yxi W]c̄f̄ḡz̄ UbX WUb[Y U Ybl̄ḡ k \c` XYd̄m̄i bXYfḡUbX h̄ Y X̄nb̄Ua]Ww̄b̄h̄l̄ḡ
 cZ̄n̄i h̄ `T̄ `9Xi W]h̄cb`]ḡ bc` `cb| Yf` Wb̄ÜbYX l̄c` h̄ Y ḡWcc` Vi]X]b| `E` n̄i h̄ `UFY `Yfb]b| `UWc̄gḡ Vch̄`
 formal and informal learning spaces, including libraries, museums, community centers, and online
 Ybj]fcb̄a Ybl̄ḡ" =bZ̄fa U]h̄cb` dfcZgḡcbUḡ a i ḡi VY dfYdUFYX l̄c` a Yhi n̄i h̄ `]b` h̄ Yf` ckb` ḡdUWḡ
 f̄tb̄]bYž]b` dYfḡcbž UbX]b` VYk Ybl̄z̄ i ḡY h̄Wbc`c| m̄l̄c` Z̄W]H̄U] Y]ḡ]b| `]b]Yfḡz̄ UbX VY]b` hi bY
 k]h̄ `k \Ūi h̄ Ym̄ÜbX fYj Ubh̄ UbX a ch̄j U]b| `T̄ f̄]GWcc` Ubci bW̄a Ybh̄ \h̄d. ##]ḡWcc`i a X̄Yxi #bYk ḡ

- 7. < ck Wb Ugg WUhcggj WUgM5@G5 Vgk cf_ k]h ^]MfmgWcc`gUbXdfcZggjcbU`YUfb]b[bYk cf_g to guarantee library staff have the skills needed to support teen needs and interests?
- 8. < ck Xc k Ybgi fYh Uh^]MfmgLUZWb]bi Ylc VYfU]bYX]b bYk UddfcUWYgfc ZW]HU]b[`YUfb]b[3

Priority Area 3

Equity of Access

H YfY]g[fck]b[`Ud`Vmk Yb íh Ydfc[fYggj Yi gYcZX]]HU`a YX]Uci hg]YcZh YWUggfcca žUbXh Ybc! Z]`gcZf]b[gcZa cgidi V]WgWcc`gh UhYi WYci f`a cgji `bYfUYdcdi `U]cbg" H]g[Ud Wb]f]Vi hg`

5`cb[`k]h `hY>cUb; Ubn7ccbYm7Ybhf`kcf_žhYDk FYgUFW7Ybhf`Ug di Vlg\XUf]W`gmicZ

build relationships and understanding of the needs of the community in which they work, and as noted in
H YDf]bWd YgcZ7ca a i b]m9b[U Ya Ybh&bXYX]hcbÍ5Wbck`YX]]b[Xj Yfglm]b VUW[fci bXZl dY]YbWZ
W`hi fYz]bW`a Yz UbX`Yi W]hcb`UbX`Yi Ua]b]b[`ck`g`V]m]dfcXi Wg df]j]Y] Yz fUM]ga z UbX]bYei U]hYg`
]b`dck Yf`g`ci`XVY`Wb]U`lc`h`YdfcWgg`cZ`Wa a i b]m]yb[U Ya Yb] f7`]b]W`UbX`H`Ubg`U]hcbU`GM]bW`
5k U`Xg`7cbg`f]h] a z&S%L`"

=b`U &S%`fYdcfh Zca`h`Y Gi]X]b[`h`Y :]YX cZ 7ca a i b]m
9b[U Ya YbhW`UvcfU]j Yh`Yj Ui YcZ`Wa a i b]m]yb[U Ya Ybh]g`
WUf`ng]U]X`Í7ca a i b]m]yb[U Ya YbhW]U]Yga cfYg`g]U]bU]Yz`
`cb[!hfa`dfc[fYgg`Zf`Wa a i b]h]Yg`VY] gY`]h]g`fcchX]b`
fYU]hcbg`]dg`" A U]m]cf[U]b]n]U]hcbg`Xf]j]b[`U g]dY]U]W]gg] Y cf`
campaign agenda build transactional relationships, which are
`Ygg`dYfgcbU`UbX`Vi]h`g]dY]U]W`m]lc`cV]U]b`U X]YgfYX`fYg`h`
Authentic community engagement, on the other hand, depends
on developing a relational connection to the community that
]g`Z`W`gYX`cb`UW]Y]]b[`cb[!hfa`fYg`lg`fU]h`Yf`h`Ub`g`cfh`
hfa`[U]bg`"5g`cbY`Y`Ybh`U]h]b`X`Y`g]U]Z`h`W`b]h`i`g]h`VY`U`ci`h`U`
dfc`Y]Z`VY] gYdfc`Y]g`Yb`X`D`fBi]X]b[`h`Y :]YXcZ7ca a i b]m]i
9b[U Ya Yb]z&S%`zd`) L`

Another opportunity for community engagement and increased
connections between libraries and the teens that they work with
]g`h`fci [`F`Yg]U]FW`DfUM]Wg`DU]h]Yf`g`]dg`ff`DDE`"5g`g]U]X`cb`
h`Y`FDZD`7c`UvcfU]cfm]k`Yg]hZ`Í>c]b]h]h]W`b]X`W]X`fYg]U]FW`
builds relationships that can lead to more relevant questions
UbX`a`cfYi`g]U]Y`fYg`lg`"h`W`b`dfcXi`W`lc`g`UbX`UbX]b[`g`h`U]h`

g]U]_`X]fY]m]lc`h`Y`W`b`W`f]b`g`cZ`Y`i`W`c`f`g`"H`]g`U]d]f]c`U`W`a`U]h`U`g`c`f`Y`d`f`Y`g`b]h`U`a`c`f`Y`h`]W`U]d]f]c`U`W`lc`
Y`i`W`]h`cb`f`Y`g]U]FW`V`m]]j]b[`Y`ei`U`j`c]W]lc`h`Y`]b]g[]hZ`Y`d`Y]Y`b`W`g`z`U`b`X`W`a`d`Y`k`c`f`_]b[`W`b]X]h]cbg`c`Z`
d`f`U]m]h]cb`Y`f`g`c`b`h`Y`Z`c`b]h]b`Y`g`c`Z`U`X`]`U`b`W`b[`Y`ei`]m]L`b`X`Y`i`W`Y`b`W`Á`Í`f`k`n`m`F`Y`g]U]FW`Z`D`f`U]m]W`z`&S%`L`=b`
&S%`h`Y`K`j`U`a`H`;`f`U]b]h]`ci`b`X]h]cb`U]X`ci`h`U`Z`U`a`Y`k`c`f`_`Z`f`f`Y`g]U]FW`d`f`U]m]W`d`U]h]Y`f`g`]d`g`h`U]h`W`b`V`Y`
]b]h]f`U]h`X`]b]lc`h`Y`b``]M`U`f`m]g`Y`f`j`]W`g`f`Y`g]U]FW`"H`Y`:`ci`b`X]h]cb`b`c`h`X`h`Y`g`Y`U`j`Y`W`b]X]h]cbg`Z`f`g`W`gg]`
d`U]h]Y`f`g`]d`g`%"H`Y`m]U]Y`cb[!hfa`z`&":`c`W`g`c`b`d`f`c`V`Y`a`g`c`Z`d`f`U]m]W`z`'"5`f`Y`W`a`a`]h]X`lc`a`i`h`i`U`]g`a`z`
("I`g`Y`]b]h]b]h]cbU`g`f`U]m]]Y`g`lc`Z`g`M`d`U]h]Y`f`g`]d`z`U`b`X`)"D`f`c`X`i`W`c`f][]b`U`U`b`U`ng`Y`g`"ff`Y`g]U]FW`!D`f`U]m]W`
D`U]h]Y`f`g`]d`g`z`&S%`zd`"&L`

H`Y`Y`U`f`Y`V`U`f]Y`f`g`c`V`i`]X]b[`W`a`a`i`b`V` " ` ` `g`Y`a` " ` ` `a`r` ` `

Research Questions

1. < ck Wb k Y`y YfU YdUfHjWdUcfmXygl[b'a Yh.cXglc'g ddcfhWa a i b]lmYb[U Ya YbhUbXhYb`]VfUfm services?
2. K \Ui hfUj]b[`Xc` `]VfUfmghUZ bYYX lc` YZMj Ym]a d`Ya Ybh g] WggZ `` Wa a i b]lmYb[U Ya Ybh techniques?
- 3.

Looking for more research-related resources?

Check out YALSA's research journal, *The Journal of Research on Libraries and Young Adults*, at www.yalsa.ala.org/jrlya,
