

One of the most important next steps in launching the journal is the official development and approval of author guidelines. Without these an official call for papers cannot be made. In March I posted sample guidelines to the ALA Connect space for feedback. In June I will be working with YALSA staff to draft a set of guidelines customized for this journal and they will then be posted to the journal website. Once these have been finished I will be drafting a formal call for papers. These will be posted either right before or soon after Annual on the YALSA journal website. I will be promoting them at the Annual conference and sharing them with any interested authors. In July I will be posting the author guidelines and call for papers to several blogs and listservs. As this will serve as the formal announcement of the new journal, I won't be posting these until all information is available on the YALSA site.

I would like to thank Renee McGrath who has served as the first chair of the advisory board for her dedication and hard work and Sandra Hughes Hassel, another dedicated board member will be taking over as chair after Annual.

The journal has received its first official submissions. 2 articles have been submitted for review and a 3rd article that was originally submitted (but not accepted) for the YA Lit Symposium is also being considered for the journal. All 3 articles have been posted to the secure ALA Connect space and board members have been asked to provide reviews. With only 5 board members and each of the 3 papers needing 2 reviewers, all members of the board will need to complete at least one peer review for this first round. The original deadline for the reviews was May 27th, currently 4 of the 6 required reviews have been submitted.

The launch of the journal continues to be planned for fall 2010, to coincide with the 2010 YA Literature Symposium. The four papers that were accepted for the Symposium will be published by the journal and I am currently working the YALSA staff to coordinate receiving the papers and preparing them for the first issue. The articles currently under review will be published in the Winter 2011 issue, pending the completion of the peer reviews and feedback.

Overall the first six months have been busy, but productive and I think the journal is off to a good start. I continue to receive much positive feedback from the community and regularly get inquiry emails about publication, even though I have not yet made an official call for papers. It continues to be on schedule for launch this fall and I think will fill an important need in the YA community.

Additional Resources:

- “2009 Association Publishing Survey” (Folio, Oct. 2009)
www.foliomag.com/2009/2009-association-publishing-survey
- “Guideposts for Going Digital,”(Snap in Touch, Dec. 2009)
www.associationmediaandpublishing.org/public/articles/details.cfm?id=1026