

**ALA Midwinter Meeting, Dallas  
January 20 – 24, 2012**

**Topic:** Teen Space Guidelines Final Draft

**Background:** In April 2011 a new teen space taskforce, with Katherine Trouern-Trend chairing the group, began its work. This taskforce supersedes the other two that had worked in previous years, but who were unable to finish guidelines that were acceptable to the board. During their June 2011 meeting via conference call the board reviewed the latest draft guidelines for public libraries on teen spaces. Over the summer the taskforce made changes to the document based on board feedback and in September submitted a revised document for board consideration. The board discussed the draft guidelines in late September via its virtual work space and determined that the draft guidelines were ready for sharing via a public comment period. After the public comment period closed, the taskforce revisited the document and made some final edits. The final draft is provided below.

**Action Required:** Action

---

**Changes since earlier draft:**

After the call for public comments closed, the taskforce made a few changes mostly to tidy up verbiage, for instance using the wording research materials instead of reference materials; we also reorganized section 4 to make it more seamless and to incorporate downloadable content and equipment at the beginning of the section rather than at the end of the list. We as well in this section combined like materials instead of listing individually such as

**4.5.h.** Graphic novels, manga, comic books, and anime.

We also added a list of explanations under section 5 detailing why teen-only policies are important

**In response to public comments:**

- We included relevant teen space research resources in the bibliography as recommended Mary Chelton: Anthony Bernier resources
- We also added a section called Model Teen Spaces to address some feedback that we needed something tangible for administrators to consider teen spaces relevant and doable.



**YALSA Board of Directors – Midwinter 2012**  
**Topic: Teen Space Guidelines Final Draft**

**3.1** Reflect the communities the library serves.



**5.4** Expect teens to respect themselves and the space and convey this clearly in the guidelines.

**5.5** Consider adopting a “teen-only” policy for use of the space to create a space that is uniquely their own. A teen-only space can:

**5.5.a.** Indicate to teens that the library cares about their unique developmental, recreational, educational, and social needs.

**5.5.b.** Enable teens to be themselves in a teen-friendly environment.

**5.5.c.** Help teens feel more at ease in the library.

**5.5.d.** Help contain noise levels that may be distracting to other patrons.

**5.5.e.** Contribute to the safety and well-being of teens while in the library.

**5.6** Limit adult use of the teen-only space to browsing materials for a period of time not

**6.7** Offer listening, viewing, and downloading equipment for a full range of user abilities/needs.

**6.8** Be technology rich and include both stationary and portable technology that is easily accessible and exposes teens to a diversity of hardware and software for both entertainment and learning.

**6.9** Offer access to current and emerging platforms and tools, including but not limited to social-networking and photo-sharing sites, user-driven communication tools for tagging and review sharing, audio and visual production technologies, and interactive Web services.

**6.10** Provide adequate lighting, ventilation, temperature controls, and acoustics.

**6.11** Include ample outlets to allow for technology owned by the library as well as technology owned and brought into the space by teens.

**6.12** Provide adequate network infrastructure.

**6.13** Ensure wireless capability.

## **GUIDELINES FOR VIRTUAL SPACE**

### **7.0 Ensure content, access and use is flexible and adaptive**

Online communication and engagement is central to the rhythms of teenagers' lives. Many teens have self-structured identities and social environments online and exist in a rapidly converging virtual and physical world. According to Pew researchers, ¾ of teenagers contribute content online and are key players in the digital information revolution. Traditionally libraries have sought to push information out to library users through librarian-created content, but it is vital in today's world to recognize and adapt to the changing information needs and expectations of our teen patrons. Teens should be active participants in the creation and maintenance of the library's online presence. An attractive and functional virtual space should be designed with teen input, evaluated regularly by teens, have interactive features, and be usable on a mobile device.

**7.1** Support and use social media as a vital means of communication.

**7.2** Allow teens to share their work, receive feedback and build community.

**7.3** Model safe and appropriate use of social media tools for teens.

**7.4** Support collaboration with adults and peers.

**7.5** Allow administrative rights and content contribution to both library staff and teens.

**7.6** Be interactive.

**7.7** Support and feature mechanisms for teens to connect in real time virtually with library staff who can assist them with research needs such as chat, text message, and Skype, among others.

**7.8** Support and feature mechanisms for teens to connect with one another through the library website to talk about books, homework, and research.

**7.9**



**8.9** Use technology and other information tools to organize and display knowledge and understanding in ways that others can view, use, and assess.

**8.10** Help teens connect learning to community issues.

**8.11** Contribute to the exchange of ideas within and beyond the learning community.

**8.12** Respect the principles of intellectual freedom.

**8.13** Use creative and artistic formats to express personal learning.

**9.0 Provide digital resources for teens that meet their unique and specific needs.**

According to Lee Raines, director of the Pew Internet and American Life Project, the mobile revolution has changed people's sense of time, place and presence and has lead to a new media ecology . This sets a new standard for the expected immediacy and availability of desired information in all formats. Libraries have an important role in providing appropriate materials to help teens navigate, consume and create information for entertainment and lifelong skill development.

**9.1** Provide general contact information for the library and specific contact information

### Review Process

In order to finalize the Guidelines, the Taskforce presented a draft document to YALSA'S Board of Directors in June 2011. At this meeting, the Taskforce solicited feedback on the draft. The feedback was carefully considered by the Taskforce; additions and revisions have been made accordingly. This draft document was approved for dissemination via a call for public comments period on Oct. 14, 2011. After the public comment period closed, the Taskforce reviewed the feedback received and refined the draft guidelines as appropriate. The goal is to have the guidelines finalized by January 2012. The Public Library Guidelines Taskforce wishes to thank the library community for their contributions to this document. It is intended that the Guidelines for Services to Teens will be reviewed for revisions every 5 years.

### Resources

American Association of School Librarians. Standards for the 21st Century Learner. Chicago : ALA, 2007.

[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/guidelinesandstandards/learningstandards/AASL\\_LearningStandards.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/guidelinesandstandards/learningstandards/AASL_LearningStandards.pdf)

Bernier, A. (2010). Spacing out with young adults: Translating YA space concepts back into practice. In D. E. Agosto & S. Hughes-Hassell (Eds.), *The information needs and behaviors of urban teens: Research and practice*. (pp. 113-126). Chicago: ALA Editions.

Bernier, A. (May 2010). Ten years of "YA Spaces of Your Dreams:" What have we learned? Voice of Youth Advocates Online: [www.voya.com/2010/05/13/ten-years-of-ya-spaces-of-your-dreams-what-have-we-learned/](http://www.voya.com/2010/05/13/ten-years-of-ya-spaces-of-your-dreams-what-have-we-learned/)

Bernier, A. (September/October 2009). "A space for myself to go:" Early patterns in Small YA spaces. *Public Libraries*, 48(5), pp. 33-47.

Bernier, A., & Branch, N. (August 2009). A TeenZone: Humming its own new tune. *Voice of Youth Advocates*, 32(3), pp. 204-206.

Bolan, Kimberly. Best Practice in Teen Space Design webinar . Chicago : ALA, 2011.

Bolan, Kimberly. *The Need for Teen Spaces in Public Libraries*. YALSA, 2008.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/profdev/whitepapers/teenspaces.cfm>

Bolan (Taney), Kimberly. *Teen Spaces: The Step-by-Step Library Makeover*. Chicago: ALA Editions, 2008.

Braun, Linda. *The Big App : New York libraries take homework help mobile - with a little help from their friends*. *School Library Journal*, December 2010. [http://www.libraryjournal.com/slj/home/887747-312/the\\_big\\_app\\_new\\_yorks.html.csp](http://www.libraryjournal.com/slj/home/887747-312/the_big_app_new_yorks.html.csp)

Densmore, Bill. "Lee Rai

## Model Teen Spaces

### Rural / Small (Populations up to 25,000)

Library: Frankfort Community Public Library  
Location: Frankfort, IN  
Teen Space Name: The Edge  
Link: <http://fcpl.accs.net/teen.htm>  
Contact Information: Tom Smith, Assistant Director and Kirsten Weaver, Teen and Outreach Librarian

Library: Waupaca Area Public Library  
Location: Waupaca, WI  
Teen Space Name: Best Cellar  
Link: <http://www.waupacalibrary.org/teens>  
Contact Information: Peg Burington, Director

Library: Newark Public Library  
Location: Newark, NY  
Teen Space Name: The Teen Spot  
Link: <http://newarklibraryteenspot.blogspot.com/>  
Contact Information: Elly Dawson, Director

Library: Plymouth District Library  
Location: Plymouth, MI  
Teen Space Name: Teen Zone  
Link: <http://plymouthlibrary.org/index.php/teen>  
Contact Information: Cathy Lichtman, Teen Service Librarian

Library: Fortuna Branch - Humboldt County Public Library  
Location: Fortuna, CA

Library:

Plainfield-

Teen Space Name:  
Link:

Club Central  
[http://www.ocls.info/Children/Teen/doi/club\\_central\\_do\\_it.asp](http://www.ocls.info/Children/Teen/doi/club_central_do_it.asp)