

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia
January 11-16, 2008**

Topic: *YALS* Editor Midwinter Report

Background: Valerie Ott, the editor of *YALS*, has provided the Board with a semi-annual report. The purpose of the journal is: 1) to serve as a vehicle for continuing education for librarians and library workers serving young adults; 2) to publish articles of current interest to the profession; 3) to showcase research and best practices in the field; 4) to provide news from related fields; 5) to spotlight significant events of the organization; 6) to offer in-depth reviews of professional literature and resources; and 7) to serve as the official record of the association.

Action Required: Discussion

Report on *YALS* for YALSA’s Board of Directors

ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, PA

January 2008

Submitted by Valerie A. Ott, Editor

Issues Completed Since Last Report

Fall 2007 (vol. 6, issue 1)	50 th Anniversary Issue	52 pgs
Winter 2008 (vol. 6, issue 2)	Teen Tech Week	52 pgs

Issue in Progress

Spring 2008 (vol. 6, issue 3)*	Annual Awards Issue	52 pgs
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*This issue is the last for which I will serve as editor; RoseMary Honnold will take over with the Summer 2008 (vol. 6, issue 4) issue

2008 Editorial Calendar

This will largely be determined by *YALS*’ incoming editor, RoseMary Honnold; however, it is likely that the calendar will follow a similar pattern to previous years.

Summer 2008—Teen Read Week

Fall 2008—Theme to be determined by editor (i5002 Tc 4DC 0 fo04 .975schoo 0ibra0 -nship2008 -1.5 -

Journal Development

It is my recommendation that the YALSA Board, YALSA staff, the Editorial Advisory Board, and RoseMary Honnold discuss the results of the member survey to determine what direction *YALS* should head in the future. As discussed at ALA's Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., I sometimes found it difficult to balance the journal's tone since we have always tried to cater to practitioners, as well as academics.

My suggestion for how to balance the tone of the journal is to make three issues a year completely geared towards practitioners. These issues would not contain any research articles, and would be filled with booklists, best practices and articles about current topics in young adult librarianship. The fourth issue of the year, then, could be an entirely refereed issue, comprised of the best research articles submitted throughout the year.

One further suggestion is to discontinue the practice of reprinting YALSA's selection lists each year. I feel that members find this to be "old news" by the time the Spring issue is mailed. Instead, I feel it would be appropriate to run articles that highlight certain aspects of each list in the Spring issue, such as winning authors, common themes, and committee members' thoughts and reflections. Perhaps a "pull out" booklet containing the annotated lists could be published as a supplement to this issue, fulfilling *YALS*' mission of acting as the official written record of YALSA.

Ideas for Increased Revenue and Promotion

Increase YALSA's online presence through:

- "Teasers" on YALSA's website (e.g. headlines and first paragraphs of articles...)
- Using the blog to discuss topics published in *YALS*, and how to publish with YALSA
- Using the wiki to publish abstracts of articles and calls for entry

Pass articles that are broader in scope and interest to *American Libraries* in order to increase visibility of YALSA and library service to teens