

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston
January 15 – 19, 2010

Topic: Competencies Taskforce Recommendations

Background: In the fall of 2009 Linda Braun appointed a taskforce to review and update YALSA’s “Competencies for Librarians Serving Youth” document. The taskforce shared some preliminary information with the Executive Committee for their fall meeting and received some feedback. The taskforce was instructed to write the document for instructors in schools of library and information science and library directors as the primary audience. They were also instructed to incorporate technology related items throughout the document in lieu of creating a separate section for it. Sarah Flowers, the taskforce Chair, has provided a revised document below. The existing competencies can be found at www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/profdev/Competencies.pdf

Action Required: Discussion

□ DRAFT Revision to YALSA’s Competencies for Librarians Serving Youth: Young Adults Deserve the Best

Area I. Leadership and Professionalism

The librarian will be able to:

1. Develop and demonstrate leadership skills in identifying the unique needs of young adults and advocating for service excellence, including equitable funding and staffing levels relative to those provided for adults and children.
2. Develop and demonstrate a commitment to professionalism and ethical behavior.
3. Plan for personal and professional growth and career development.
4. Encourage young adults to become lifelong library users by helping them to discover what libraries offer, how to use library resources, and how libraries can assist them in actualizing their overall growth and development.
5. Develop and supervise formal youth participation, such as teen advisory groups, recruitment of teen volunteers, and opportunities for employment.

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Area III. Communication, Marketing & Outreach

The librarian will be able to:

1. Form appropriate professional relationships with young adults, providing them with the assets, inputs and resiliency factors that they need to develop into caring, competent adults.
2. Develop relationships and partnerships with young adults, administrators and other youth-serving professionals in the community by establishing regular communication and by taking advantage of opportunities to meet in person.
3. Be an advocate for young adults and effectively promote the role of the library in serving young adults, demonstrating that the provision of services to this group can help young adults build assets, achieve success, and in turn, create a stronger community.
4. Design, implement, and evaluate a strategic marketing plan for promoting young adult services in the library, schools, youth-serving agencies and the community at large.
5. Demonstrate the capacity to articulate relationships between young adult services and the parent institution's core goals and mission.
6. Establish an environment in the library wherein all staff serve young adults with courtesy and respect, and all staff are encouraged to promote programs and services for young adults.
7. Identify young adult interests and groups underserved or not yet served by the library, including at-risk teens, those with disabilities, non-English speakers, etc., as well as those with special or niche interests.
8. Promote young adult library services directly to young adults through school visits, library tours, etc., and through engaging their parents, educators and other youth-serving community partners.

Area IV. Administration.

The librarian will be able to:

1. Develop a strategic plan for library service with young adults based on their unique needs.
2. Design and conduct a community analysis and needs assessment.
3. Apply research findings towards the development and improvement of young adult library services.
4. Design activities to involve young adults in planning and decision-making.

Area VI - Access to Information

The librarian will be able to:

1. Organize physical and virtual collections to maximize easy, equitable, and independent access to information by young adults.
2. Utilize current merchandising and promotional techniques to attract and invite young adults to use the collection.
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