

OLAQ

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OLA Quarterly



Energizing Young Adult Services

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Teens in the Library: Tapping Potential

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Are Libraries Still Uncool to Teens?

YA 101 Resources

Fall 2003

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*Other Voices: Library
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TBA

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OLA Quarterly Publication Schedule 2003

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An Introduction from the Editor

*What did you wear on your first date?
Who was your favorite music group
when you were in high school?
What kinds of things were you reading?*

Do you remember your adolescent years with fondness or angst? Teenagers today are not so different from teenagers of every generation. They have hopes, dreams, goals, and desires to make the world a better place. They are growing up, searching for identity, excited and scared. They are also facing issues that many of us could never have expected.

Whether a public library, a school, college, university or special library, each of our libraries is growing up, searching for identity in this information explosion, and creating new goals every day. How we can meld the two, making our libraries comfortable for teens, is a challenge we all face.

Several Oregon librarians found a way to work on this challenge by forming a group called the Oregon Young Adult Network. OYAN was born in the late 1980s when a group of Youth Librarians wanted to begin working on activities for teens. They formed a young adult interest group of public and school librarians who began meeting quarterly on an informal basis to share ideas, information, book reviews, and support.

Today OYAN is still meeting on a quarterly basis, but now as a division of OLA. Attendees include library school students, Young Adult Librarians, Children's Librarians, support staff who work with teens, and Media Specialists. It has a growing membership, publishes a quarterly newsletter called the OYAN Review, and presents

workshops at annual conferences of several organizations. Beginning in 2000, OYAN created its Book Rave, an annual list of YA favorites that no library should be without.

In the workshops I present, I find all levels of library staff who want to improve their skills in working with teens. Many staff members did not grow up with young adult literature as varied as we have today. Reader's Advisory is a huge concern. Teens' interests change as fast as their outfits, how can we keep up? The teens of today are most fortunate to have a wealth of young adult literature at their fingertips: fiction which is realistic, poignant, humorous, fantastic, mysterious, and extremely well-written, along with non-fiction on every personal issue imaginable.

Library staff need to be aware of what is out there for teens. There are many fine resources available to assist libraries in designing programs and services for teens. Books are being published all the time, Web sites are created and magazine articles written on how to work with adolescents in our buildings. Colleges and universities want students who are knowledgeable, well read, and able to speak and write. High schools want students ready to learn, able to do research, and excited about the learning process. Public libraries want teens who love to read, are willing to serve on an advisory board, or who will volunteer to help with Summer Reading.

This issue of the *OLAQ* will show you how far Oregon libraries have come in their services to teens. We are most fortunate to have many wonderful writers of adolescent literature

living in Oregon, and Marsha Weber will interview three of our most prominent. Find out what a variety of libraries in different parts of the state are doing to provide and promote their programs, and see what you can do to serve young adults. Resources are included here, as well as the latest OYAN Book Rave. *Slammin! @ Your Library* is the theme for Teen Read Week, October 19 to 25, so in its honor there is poetry by Hillsboro teens. Illustrations throughout this issue were created by Bob Linquist, a Library Clerk who has been working in the Teen Library in Medford (Jackson County) for eight years.

If you have been trying to figure out how to reach the teens of your community, what to do with them once they're in the door, or just want to revel with pride at how far Oregon libraries have come in serving young adults, enjoy this issue of the *Oregon Library Association Quarterly*.

—Anne Guevara
Jackson County Library
Young Adult Services
Guest Editor

As time goes by, books never go out of style. They take you to another land or world. Reading is learning. Libraries' doors are always open, welcoming the youngest readers to the most experienced.

BY BRITTANY ROMO, GRADE 9
NEWBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Winning Young Adult Authors

by Marsha Weber
Library Assistant, Freelance Writer
Multnomah County Central Library

Virginia Euwer Wolff created her own niche in the Young Adult genre with the publication of *Probably Still Nick Swanson* (Holt, 1988) a novel that the American Library Association's (ALA) Notable Children's Book Committee selected as one of the year's best. *Bat 6* (Scholastic, 1998) was also chosen as an ALA Notable Book and, in November, 2001, *True Believer* (Simon & Schuster/Antheneum), the second of the *Make Lemonade Trilogy* featuring the endearing, indomitable LaVaughn, earned the National Book Award for Young People.

Sara Ryan's *Empress of the World* was awarded: the Oregon Book Award's 2002 Leslie Bradshaw Award for Young Readers with Judge Khafre Abif noting that "Ryan offers a straight-forward voice for young adults; one that will inspire teens to keep on reading and to find themselves in books;" named a YALSA Best Book for Young Adults; ranked among the best for young readers by the New York Public Library and Cooperative Children's Book Center—University of Wisconsin, Madison, and, in late 2002, was named a Lambda Literary Award finalist.

Hawaii born with a lineage that comes from a 100-year line of newspapermen associated with the Honolulu Advertiser, Graham Salisbury grew up on Oahu and on Hawaii, graduated from California State University and earned an M.F.A. from Vermont College of Norwich where he was a founder of the M.F.A. program in writing for children. His first novel, *Blue Skin of the Sea* won the Bank Street Child Study Association Children's Book Award, The Judy Lopez Award, the Oregon Book Award and was selected as an ALA Best Book for Young Adults. *Under the Blood Red Sun* won the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, the Oregon Book Award, Hawaii's Nene Award and the California Young Reader Medal and was an ALA Notable Book and Best Book for Young Adults. *Shark Bait* was selected for the Oregon Book Award and as a Parents'

Choice Silver Honor Book, and *Jungle Dogs* was an ALA Best Book for Young Adults. *Lord of the Deep* was awarded the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award.

Virginia Euwer Wolff

Anyone who harbors doubts about life after the age of 50 has not met Oregon City author Virginia Euwer Wolff. As she leaped into her fifth decade the effervescent author (who ranks giving birth and rearing her son and daughter as her greatest accomplishment) conquered an addiction to cigarettes, began taking violin lessons again after 30 years and turned her poet's pen to writing books for young people.

However, awards and accolades were not foremost in Wolff's thoughts when we settled into our conversation. "How about using all that we know about kindness and tolerance to get some world peace going?" she responded when asked about her ideas during the past year.

MW: *What is the most difficult decision you've ever had to make?*

VEW: As a writer, the difficult decision comes ever day: To write what is next to write, knowing it's not nearly as apt or compelling or lucid as I'd hoped it would be when I began to hear it in my mind. I think deciding to continue with a book when it appears to be impossible is always a difficult decision. I've made it lots of times.

MW: *What are some of the problems you encounter in your writing?*

VEW: Getting the words right. I just keep trying. The frustrations are everywhere. The notion that style comes down to the question of which word goes where is one I like. And which word goes where is a huge problem. For distraction, I play a lot of music. I have very absorbing rehearsals on Thursday and Friday evenings that help take my mind off the writing problems. I go to concerts, take violin lessons and



practice the violin every day, usually early in the mornings. I go to poetry readings, read a classic every winter and I swim, hike and garden. I let my drafts sit. I think most of us find that letting a draft sit and age for a while is a good step toward maintaining a healthy relationship with it.

MW: *Does your knowledge of music play any part in your writing?*

VEW: Playing an instrument helps me immensely in writing. When you have to practice a difficult passage 3,000 times or more it helps you approach revising and rewriting. Knowing that every musical performance could have been improved is a good background for trying to learn how to think through the composition of a story.

MW: *Are you aware of the rhythmic aspects of your work?*

VEW: Oh, my, yes. I write everything aloud, reading it over and over to myself. Jarring or lurching rhythms tell me something is up. The passage I'm working on may need to be jarring or lurching, or it may need to be just the opposite. As a musician it's my job to sense immediately the difference between pepper and sugar, between gravy and water, between burlap and silk. I spend my life trying to learn to hear these distinctions perceptively and those attempts move from music to writing and back again. I'm working with a narrative situation this week in which I must use what musicians sometimes call "hairpins" at the same time I'm deploying a Rossini crescendo. I suppose if I were a carpenter I'd use building analogies. If I were a physician I'd use medical ones. As it is, musical ones are what are available to me but I also use Trailblazer basketball analogies when they come to me.

MW: *Can you explain the continuing surge in the popularity of Young Adult literature?*

VEW: I think it's because adolescence is complex, elusive, multi-dimensional, with blurred lines and trembling boundaries. The books written for this age group attempt to catch the imbalance and—like all art—to bring some order out of the disordered experience. I think YA authors keep their readers' ears in mind at all times and the result is that their readers hear them. Kids discuss and disagree and argue and refute and get their dander up in wonderfully visceral ways about these books. As the late Mr. Rogers told us, "What is mentionable is manageable." Which brings us to the "unmentionable" things that appear in these novels. We know, down deep, that we remain silent about the most sensitive things in life at our peril. Listen to Mr. Rogers!

MW: *Here's your chance: Is there a thought you'd like to impart to readers that you've not had the opportunity to?*

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VEW: Little kids act out their favorite stories all the time. I'd like to see more, older readers doing readers' theatre or other informally staged readings of excerpts from YA books. When stories stand up and talk to us we learn from them in ways that are different from the ways in which we learn when we're hunkered down in a chair reading silently, just one mind and one story in conversation. That one mind, one story partnership is wonderful and it has saved many of us from despair. But I'm suggesting that group readings are fun and engaging, too. Drama kids know already. I want everyone to know it.

Sara Ryan

The highlights in Sara Ryan's gleaming hair may change with the season but her enviable energy and ability to juggle a career as a lauded writer and her "day job" as a Youth Librarian at Multnomah County Library, Portland, are unwavering.

Ryan is the author of *Empress of the World* (Viking, 2001), a debut novel that tells the story of Nicola, a young girl who finds herself falling in love with Battle Hall Davies, a beautiful blond dancer from North Carolina, the daughter of a preacher and one of Nicola's fellow students at the Siegel Summer Program for Gifted Youth. From first draft to publication the novel took Ryan 5 years but her persistence and tenacity earned the young, Ohio born, author immediate accolades.

MW: *Does the great success of your first published book create any pressure to perform the second time out?*

SR: Boy howdy! I try not to think about it too much. I'm so honored that my work has been reaching people that the greatest pressure I feel is to give the people who have responded so positively to *Empress of the World* new work that will live up to their expectations.

MW: *What is the wildest idea you've had in the past year?*

SR: I don't know about wild, but I can tell you about the most unexpected writing project I've done in the past year. Steve Lieber and I were asked to do a story for a *Hellboy* anthology for Dark Horse Comics. I had never written a story about someone else's character before (Mike Magnolia is the creator of the character *Hellboy*) and it was a good stretch for me as a writer. Oh, and I'm doing a short story for an anthology called *Girl Meets Boy* that will be published by Simon and Schuster. Some people certainly might consider my interpretation of that theme wild.

MW: *Are there ways in which you maintain your integrity as a writer?*

SR: Not consciously, but I think everything you do as a writer reflects how you see the world—your values, your sense of how people interact with each other. And certainly part of all that for me is maintaining a sense of integrity.

MW: *What is the most frustrating problem you encounter in your writing?*

SR: Number one problem: Lack of time for writing! I love my day job as a librarian but it's definitely challenging to work full time and also be a writer. I wish I was one of those disciplined writers who writes every day at the same time of day but sometimes weeks go by without my having written a word. Sometimes I'll deliberately under schedule myself on the weekends and in the evenings just to make sure I have significant blocks of time to get the writing done.

MW: *You, like many other authors, are a musician. Does your knowledge of music play any part in your writing?*

SR: I've never thought about it before but I think it does. I do think about the rhythm



of my prose, on a sentence-by-sentence level. For my characters who are musicians I use my own experience of having played the violin and sung in choirs. I don't know about the discipline and practice part of being a musician. I don't think I was diligent enough about practicing to qualify!

MW: *Authors have told me that the Young Adult designation was once considered the “kiss of death” for a novel. Yet, that has changed.*

SR: There's a bunch of different things going on. I think there's an increasing awareness of and respect for the genre, both with teachers and librarians and among young adults themselves. There are awards now such as the Young Adult Library Services Association's Best Books for Young Adults and the Printz Award. There's better book design—with some notable exceptions—and awareness on the part of publishers about what works well for this audience. There is a huge population of teens and a constantly growing body of outstanding work in the genre.

MW: *Of all your writing accomplishments, what has given you the most satisfaction?*

SR: The e-mails I've gotten from fans of *Empress*. I've heard from so many amazing people. I'm thrilled that the book has affected them enough for them to want to write to me.

For more on, from, about or to correspond with Sara Ryan see her Web site: <http://www.sararyan.com>.

Graham “Sandy” Salisbury

The name Graham “Sandy” Salisbury has become nearly synonymous with Young Adult literature, particularly to librarians throughout the state of Oregon who delight in reading and recommending his long list of award winning titles that hold immediate appeal to voracious young

readers and their more reluctant fellows as well. His most recent book is *Island Boyz*, a collection of short stories dedicated to “all the guys” Salisbury “kicked around with in Kanehoe, Kailua, Honolulu, Kailua-Kona, Hilo and Kamuela.”

MW: *Has your integrity as a writer ever been challenged?*

GS: My intentions are not to shock or wow, but rather to explore and define the human condition as I feel it. If my integrity as a writer has ever been challenged, it went zooming over my head. I have not had huge challenges to what I do. But what others say about my work is always important to me. If someone were to challenge my integrity as a writer I would thank them for their feedback, consider the complaint, then move ahead in a manner appropriate to my deepest beliefs. For example, there are those out there who think saying the phrase, “under God” should not be said in the Pledge of Allegiance. Although I am not a religious person, I would never *not* say “under God” just because someone doesn't like it. I think it's appropriate and part of our heritage. So I will continue to say it despite the objections of others. Challenges are good. They keep us alert. But they usually do not alter my basic beliefs.

There are certain limits I place upon myself as a writer. I don't do gratuitous violence, sex scenes or inappropriate language if I am writing for young readers. Critics might cringe at this kind of self-editing, but I consider what I do a responsibility as much as I consider it an art. There is, in my mind, a line between the two and I try to keep that clear. Other writers go for mean realism in every case. There's much to be said for this. It's often gutsy stuff to read.

MW: *If you're willing to reveal it, what is the most difficult decision you've ever had to make?*



GS: I've had to make many difficult decision in my life, but as a writer the most difficult thing I've yet had to decide was that the novel I'd been working on for almost two years just wasn't working. It was a novel set in Oregon. I loved the theme and the setting but that particular story never had a heartbeat so I shelved it. That was not easy. No.

MW: *Are there other problems you've encountered in your writing?*

GS: Most of the problems I have in writing have to do with writing the first draft. That's the hardest part, without question. After I get the first draft down it becomes a question of fixing all its problems, which to me is far easier and more enjoyable. But in that first draft I have to fool myself into thinking that what I'm doing has merit. Sometimes it doesn't, like in the Oregon book. Sometimes it does, such as in *Lord of the Deep*, which was a very difficult book to pull together. Overcoming frustration has to do with self-talk. Writers only have themselves to depend upon. We have to be loving, understanding, encouraging and comforting—to ourselves.

MW: *Has the experience of playing a musical instrument made you more aware of the rhythmic aspects of your work?*

GS: Music does play a part in my written work, but it's very subtle. I think it is in the rhythms. Music is probably the single most powerful force in my life. It can move me like nothing else, but the way it touches my writing is as mysterious as the universe. Music touches all of my life. It's something that just is.

MW: *The field of Young Adult literature continues to expand at a surprising rate despite early criticism of the designation.*

GS: I think younger kids are reading the YA books. And some adults. Certainly

most writers for young readers read YA books. In my opinion, the true YA group probably also read adult novels. Who knows? A good book is a good book! The distinction between a middle reader and YA is drawn more for the sake of giving buyers some guess as to age appropriateness. That's how I view it. That's how Random House makes that distinction for my work. It's for marketing. They tell me what category my books will fit in. But to me a book is a book.

MW: *Of all your writing accomplishments, what has given you the most satisfaction?*

GS: The poem *Island Boyz*. Poetry has pretty much always eluded me. That I wrote at least one poem in my life is amazing. Poetry is a gift and an art that I do not possess. I'm too long winded and way to imprecise. Oh yeah!

MW: *In closing is there a message you'd like give to young readers?*

GS: As a kid I did not read. I became a reader when I was 30-years-old, by accident. I picked up a copy of *Roots*, by Alex Haley and read it. Why? I have no idea. But that book grabbed me by the throat and would not let go. *Roots* turned me into a reader. Until that point in my life I had never had the vicarious reading experience good readers have every day. It was awesome. If I could say anything to any young reader, or prospective young reader, it would be this: Reading can give your life a depth you might never reach as a non-reader. Give it a chance. A good chance. Give it your heart. You will not be disappointed. Aloha. 🌿

For more about the busy life and works of Graham Salisbury and to read or listen to his acceptance speech at the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award ceremony see his lively and engaging Web site at: www.grahamsalisbury.com.



Young Adult Literature Awards

And the Oscar, uh, I mean Printz goes to...

Young Adult Literature Awards and Their Winners

When you think of the Academy Awards, you might think of Michael Moore, Michael Caine, Michael Douglas ... Michael Printz? Book awards are the Oscars of the literary world, and young adult literature has its own honors for which authors can contend. Here is a sampling of awards and some recent winners. All of these are awarded by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), which is a division of ALA.

Michael L. Printz Award

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/printz/>

The Michael L. Printz Award is an award for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in Young Adult literature. It is named for a Topeka, Kansas school librarian who was a long-time active member of YALSA.

2003 Award: *Postcards from No Man's Land* by Aidan Chambers

2002 Award: *A Step from Heaven* by An Na

2001 Award: *Kit's Wilderness* by David Almond

Margaret A. Edwards Award

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/edwards/>

The Margaret A. Edwards Award, honors an author's lifetime achievement for writing books that have been popular over a period of time. It recognizes an author's work in helping adolescents become aware of themselves and addressing questions about their role and importance in relationships, society, and in the world.

2003 Award: Nancy Garden

2002 Award: Paul Zindel

2001 Award: Robert Lipsyte

Best Books for Young Adults

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/bbya/>

The name says it all. This list of fiction and non-fiction includes books written specifically for teens as well as books published in the adult market. A selection of titles from the 2003 Top Ten list: *Feed* by M.T. Anderson; *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer; *The Lightkeeper's Daughter* by Iain Lawrence; *Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis* by Peter Nelson; and *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East* by Naomi Shahib Nye.

Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/quickpicks/>

QP is a great list to have when you need a book that teens can get into easily. Think high interest, popular reading. A selection of titles from the 2003 Top 10 list: *Gingerbread* by Rachel Cohn; *Animé Mania: How to Draw Characters for Japanese Animation* by Christopher Hart; *Between Boardslides and Burnout: My Notes From the Road* by Tony Hawk; *Son of the Mob* by Gordon Korman; and *Sloppy Firsts* by Megan McCafferty.



The Oregon Young Adult Network

Book Rave List 2003

Need help choosing the best YA literature for your collection? OYAN publishes the *Book Rave* each spring to do just that! OYAN members discuss new titles, then recommend the best for inclusion in this annual list. For *Book Rave* backlists go to www.olaweb.org/oayan/best.htm.

Anderson, Laurie Hulse
Catalyst

Kate's world spins out of control when she doesn't get into her college of choice.

Anderson, M.T.
Feed

With computer chips implanted in their brains, anything seems possible for these teens except, perhaps, individual freedom.

Barker, Clive
Abarat

Candy Quackenbush crosses into a magical world where she encounters sorcery, mystery, treachery and fantastical creatures.

Bechard, Margaret
Hanging on to Max

Sam never expected that he'd be pushing a baby stroller his senior year.

Black, Jonah
The Black Book
(*Diary of a Teenage Stud Series*)

Girls, Girls, Girls.
Stop, Don't Stop.
Run, Jonah, Run.
Faster, Faster, Faster.
The hilarious, too weird, life of Jonah Black.

Cohn, Rachel
Gingerbread

Cyd has been kicked out of boarding school, grounded for life and now her boyfriend is losing interest.

Dessen, Sarah
This Lullaby

Remy knows how to dump boyfriends, but Dexter won't play by her rules.

Farmer, Nancy
The House of the Scorpion

In the future, will cloning offer the possibility of immortality or brutality?

Flinn, Alex
Breaking Point

Paul will do just about anything to fit in with the coolest group in school.

Frank, E.R.
America

America's life has been full of heartbreak, disappointment and abuse. Will he survive?

Gantos, Jack
Hole in My Life

One bad choice can have devastating consequences. An award-winning author recounts his big, true-life mistake.

Giblin, James Cross
The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler

The rise and fall of the most destructive leader of the Twentieth Century.

Horowitz, Anthony
Stormbreaker

Fourteen year-old Alex Rider is a young James Bond who must foil a plot to kill the youth of England.



Koertge, Ron
Stoner & Spaz

Ben has cerebral palsy; Colleen has an abusive boyfriend and a drug problem. But they become more than friends.

Mason, Jeff (editor)
9-11 Emergency Relief

Reflections of the experiences of September 11, 2001, from the pens of dozens of graphic artists.

Oates, Joyce Carol
Big Mouth & Ugly Girl

Because of a careless comment, Matt is accused of plotting to blow up the school, and only one person comes to his defense.

Salisbury, Graham
Island Boyz

Short stories of experiences of teenage boys in Hawaii.

Sones, Sonya
What My Mother Doesn't Know

It's not easy being boy-crazy. Sophie reveals her longings and difficulties in prose poems.

Tashjian, Janet
The Gospel According to Larry

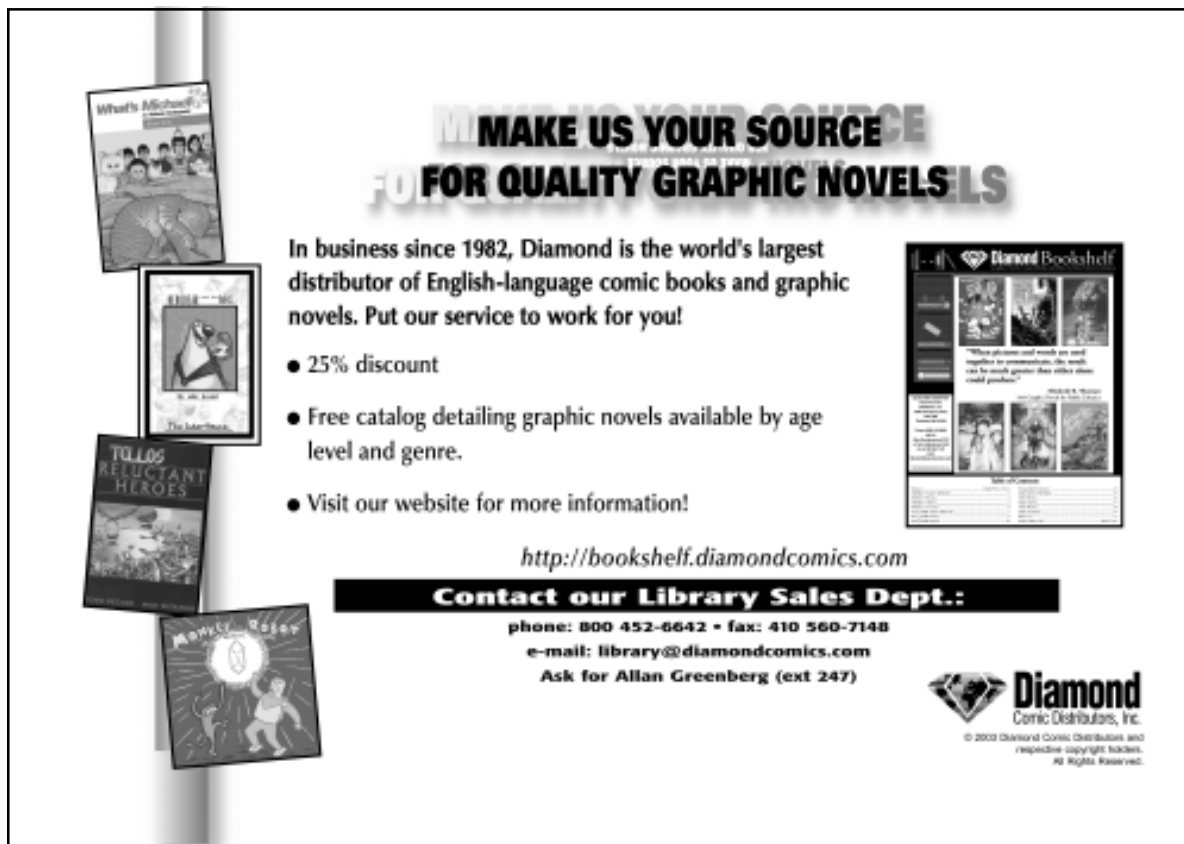
What's more important to Josh: saving the world or seducing Beth?

Wittlinger, Ellen
The Long Night of Leo and Bree

Feeling crazy on the anniversary of his sister's brutal murder, Leo kidnaps a girl.

Woodson, Jacqueline
Hush

The witness protection program can give Toswiah a new identity, but it cannot change who she is. Or can it?




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Young Adult Poetry

October 19 to 25 is the time to celebrate Teen Read Week, sponsored by YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association), a division of ALA. Teen Read Week is a national event designed to encourage young adults to read and use their library and YALSA has helped libraries celebrate the week since 1998. This year's theme, *Slammin' @ your library*, will highlight poetry for and by teens. Included here is poetry presented by teens from *Open Mike*, an evening program offered each quarter in the Hillsboro Public Library at Tanasbourne and submitted by Youth Librarian, Sue Plaisance. Jasmine Sears won an Honorable Mention for her poem, *Speaking From the Heart* in April 2003 as part of the Oregon Student Poetry Contest sponsored by the Oregon Poetry Association. *Only first names will be used for all other poets.*



Antara

By Anushka

Anushka, tu kai kurthiae?
My cousin's voice rolls
Along with her eyes and her head.
With two year old wisdom she understands
That I am packing to leave.
She knows I should be playing instead.

I smile, and pick her up,
Making memories of her short, dark, sweet hair
Her already expressive, asking eyes,
Their perfect, precocious questions.

She picks up her doll and does the same.
I smell India, and baby powder,
I feel her baby warmth and love.

My mom snaps a picture of our overseas sisterhood.
Weeks later and cultures away,
I find it, and miss my Antara.



The Key

by Darren

There are not enough words
to describe the way I feel,
My heart is a storming tempest
plugged by an unseen seal.

Your friendship alone is the key to its undoing,
But beware the lock is old and jagged,
weathered by wrong doing.

Too many friends have tried their key
but only few have worked,
They were welcomed to my heart
but near them danger lurked.

After a while they destroyed my heart
and took with them a piece.
Please now do me this favor
and restore to it some peace.



Speaking From the Heart

By Jasmine Sears, age 13

Billy sat in his chair, dreaming away
While the rest of the class put their hands up to say
Yesterday I went fishing
Caught bugs in a jar
Tomorrow I'll make lunch
Have a picnic in the car
When it was finally Billy's turn to speak
He stood up and said, his voice very meek
"I'll make lots of cards for the girl I adore
And on Valentine's Day, give her them at the door"
Oh how the class laughed when he was through
Even the teacher gave a smile or two
Poor little Billy didn't know what he'd said
For the words had come from his heart, not the head





I Hate Tomatoes

*by Elizabeth and Alexandra
Inspired by Connor*

I hate tomatoes,
Let me make it clear.
They smell like garbage,
And taste like beer.

I hate tomatoes,
I told you once before.
I hate tomatoes,
I'd rather lick the floor.

I hate tomatoes,
Though I really am trying,
To eat this gruesome food,
Without choking or dying.

I hate tomatoes,
Even if they're ripe.
I hide them under my foot,
Trying to be polite.

I hate tomatoes,
I hope you understand.
I hate tomatoes,
All across this land.



Hidden

by Kristen, Grade 10

Nobody knows of
These Tears I cry at night.
'Cause around them all,
Those tears I try to fight
Occasionally one
Will slip right out,
Then people pay attention
But do they know what about?
Nobody knows me,
Though some think they do.
Will anybody ever know me?
And, if so, who?
Will anyone find
The hidden real me?
Or this fake image
Will they continue to see?
Right now I feel,
So very alone.
But those feelings I hide
They are never shown.
I always answer
The questions that they ask,
But when will they find me?
And take off that mask?
Everyone around me seems
To have found that other one
Every time I think I do
That's when they run.
All I really want,
Is someone to love and be with.
Is that too much to ask?
Is true love only a myth?



I'm Coming To An End

By Ashley

I'm coming to an end, a point where
the road ends. Where loose ends are
tied or tucked back inside or let go.
Where things are set straight and the
world is upright. When things stop
spinning and all your questions are
answered. Where all of life's prob-
lems get set to the side and you are
free of all of life's complications. I'm
coming to an end, a point where a
new road begins.



The Beginning of the End

By Trevor

I continually cut my feet on this hot,
coarse sand.
The heat melts my skin and the wind
blows it away.
My soul wanders this deserted land
searching for the
Beginning of the end.

My only company is the angel of light
and of darkness.
These two separates guide my
every move.
Daily they struggle to take control,
And daily I must decide
who will play that role.
Will I find shelter in You?
Will I find
what I am searching for in You?
There is an oasis on the horizon,
That is where I will find what I need.



Teens in the Library: Tapping Potential

by Rebecca Cohen,
Judy Dunlap,
Susan Ludington, and
Carol Reich

Patrons, summer reading assistants, Advisory Board members, home work helpers, volunteers ... teens have many roles in the library; and whether they're wearing a Mohawk or Abercrombie and Fitch, they can be of great assistance to the staff. Just think of all that youthful energy and idealism channeled into helping you keep current, solve problems, and simply get things done. Teens are active in Oregon's libraries already, and here are some inspirational situations to spark you into harnessing even more potential for your own facility.

Teen involvement in the work of Newport Public Library

by Rebecca Cohen,
Youth Services Librarian

Newport Library depends on teenagers for three important volunteer functions: shelving in the children's and young adult departments the year round; helping with the summer programs for grade-schoolers; and serving as members of both long- and short-term advisory boards and committees. Seven to ten middle and high school students typically make up the library's YA advisory board. They offer a new perspective and are full of great, if not always practical, ideas—such as completely enclosing their corner of the library and installing surround sound!

Having teens participate in advisory capacities in a more formal manner is a new development and follows in the steps of the City, which recently added a teen advisory position on the City Council. When young adult library assistant, Jennifer Haggerty, won a \$7,500 grant from Trust Management Services in May to improve both the physical area and the collection for young adults, she wanted input from the people the grant would serve. This newly-formed committee consists of eight students, ages 12 to 17, who will spend three months serving and advising the library. The other advisory capacity currently open to teenagers is as an adjunct

member of the Library Board of Directors. Currently a high school senior is serving as the first YA representative, bringing to the Board a fresh view about libraries.

I really value the viewpoint and the energy these kids are bringing to our committees and boards. They are very serious about their tasks and I see them remaining lifetime library advocates.

Teen advisors at Lake Oswego

Submitted by Judy Dunlap,
Youth Services Librarian

Teen volunteers play an important role in collection development and young adult programming at Lake Oswego Library by serving on one of two councils: the Teen Advisory Council and ComicTalk, a graphic novel and animé discussion and advisory group. The members of these councils serve as our liaisons to the Lake Oswego teens. They let us know what their peers want from their library and how we can best serve our teen community. Their input and advice are invaluable.

Between 13 and 15 high school students comprise the Teen Advisory Council, which meets once a month and will be starting its fifth year of service in September. They have many responsibilities and serve in both advisory and participatory capacities. Members provide input on programs and events that will appeal to teens and they are very upfront about letting us know that some of our ideas are very uncool. They assist in publicizing library programs in the high schools and junior highs, create monthly bulletin boards for the young adult area, suggest CD and DVD/video titles to add to the library's collections, write and perform in an annual PSA to promote teen summer reading, and take on many one-time projects such as creating teen user surveys and assisting at teen functions. Council members also contribute book, DVD and CD reviews to the library's quarterly young adult publication, *The What's New Review*.



The ComicTalk group also meets monthly. Both junior high school and high school graphic novel enthusiasts are invited to join, and there are currently eight students who attend regularly. Most of the members are diehard manga and animé fans, and they have usually read or viewed the latest and the greatest. Their suggestions for additions of manga and animé are a tremendous help to us in building these collections.

Teens help out through the library's volunteer program administered by the Volunteer Coordinator. Teens have volunteer opportunities throughout the year that include signing up computer users in the adult reference area, staffing the children's and teen's summer reading sign up desks, helping with mailings, and a host of other projects. In addition, a teen volunteer serves on the Library Advisory Board to represent teen interests.

Our teen volunteers are indispensable to the library's effort to meet the needs of the teen community and to promote the library as a community resource they will continue to use throughout their lifetimes. We value their time, their ideas and their commitment.

Deschutes' logo contest

Submitted by Susan Ludington,

Young Adult/Outreach Services Librarian

The Teen Summer Reading Program (TSRP) at Deschutes Public Library is just a few years old. Although free books, weekly prizes, and sporadic programs were planned for both 2001 and 2002, the levels of participation and awareness for the program were disappointingly low. I knew that this year I wanted to make certain that teens would not only have knowledge about the exciting prizes and programs we'd be offering, but would also be eager to become involved and help make it their own.

In mid-February, I took the initial steps toward creating an attention-getting TSRP by first selecting a theme. Having studied

the various programs outlined in the Katherine Kan/YALSA resource manual *Sizzling Summer Reading Programs for Young Adults* (ALA, 1998), I felt strongly that there needed to be a focus and direction for the TSRP. With a theme chosen, we could then look at related programs, prizes, decorating ideas, and booklists. Motivated by the Hawaii State Public Library System's 1996 "Rock, Rap, and Read," I decided upon an adaptation dubbed "Rap, Rhythm and Read."

Since our library did not, at that time, have a professional graphic designer, I realized I would need to come up with ideas for artwork to accompany the array of promotional materials I aimed to have developed. As I wanted to get teens energized about the TSRP early on, I thought a successful way of doing it would be to conduct a "Design a Logo" contest. This inspiration, too, was based on one submitted by Jefferson-Madison (VA) Regional Library in *Sizzling Summer Reading Programs*. Just as their YA Coordinator had done in 1996, I designed a flyer to announce the program, and an official entry form which included the instructions, rules, and a 6-inch by 6-inch space where the image could be drawn.

By the first week of March, copies of the flyer were posted in multiple places throughout the five branches and bookmobile that comprise the Deschutes Public Library System. Perhaps more importantly, I hand-delivered an announcement flyer, along with 100 copies of the official entry form, to the seventeen middle schools and high schools in the county. I asked each school contact to publicize the contest as he or she best saw fit, discussing the pros and cons of identifying relevant teachers, broadcasting announcements over the school's public address system, and simply targeting students as they visited the library.

I wanted to really entice teens to enter the contest, so I approached the owners of a local art supply store, explaining to them the goals of the Teen Summer



Reading Program and how the contest fit in with our aspirations. The storeowners gladly agreed to donate a \$20.00 gift certificate in exchange for including the name of their business with other TSRP sponsors on our posters, flyers, and other promotional materials.

The deadline for contest entries was set for March 31st, as our goal was to have the majority of promotional materials ready for school visits by the beginning of May, and this deadline allowed us to have the month of April to put everything together. After four weeks of promoting the contest, I was very pleased to have received a fairly impressive 52 submissions! Teens between the ages 12 and 17 from all across the county tried their hand at developing a design. Color was not limited, so most teens used ballpoint pens, magic markers, and the like to make their unique pictures. We certainly had a difficult decision when it came time for voting; I selected the top six from the entries, and had all members of the library's Outreach Staff vote on their favorite.

Finally, one winner was chosen. We were thrilled to be able to bestow the honor on 17-year-old Travis Franklin, a resident at Bend's J Bar J Boys Ranch, a residential treatment facility for juvenile offenders and a regular bookmobile stop. Although the posters weren't yet printed when I went to make the announcement at Travis' school, I sensed he was very pleased to stand before his classmates and receive the accolades and recognition, especially when the others applauded loudly and yelled, "All right, Travis!" and "Congratulations!" I later learned that he requested transportation the very next day to go out and use his gift to purchase a complete set of fine drawing pens. Not long after, the posters were professionally printed and, as promised, two copies were given to Travis. In addition to the posters and information flyers, his design also graces the DPL Web site (<http://www.dpls.lib.or.us/>), where it alternates

with the children's SRP artwork on the homepage and appears on the TSRP introductory page in the Teen Scene section.

It was truly gratifying to have instigated such a well-received program for teens, and to publicly recognize the talent and creativity of the contest winner. We benefited from having the artwork for the TSRP imagined and created by someone else (for a very low price!), and our teens had the advantage of becoming actively involved with a segment of the reading program. I'm proud of this success, and have used it as a starting point for fostering and endorsing other forms of teen involvement in library endeavors.

Further inspiration may also be found in the February 2003 issue of VOYA, which devotes six articles to the topic "Libraries as Safe Havens for Teens" and also addresses creating YA spaces and helping teens through troubled times. Also recommended is the June 2003 VOYA which offers "Activate Your Teens to Advocate for Libraries" (<http://www.voya.com/whatsinvoya/JuneView.pdf>).



Original artwork by Travis Franklin, 17, winner of the 2003 Teen Summer Reading Program's "Design a Logo" contest



Juvenile Justice Outreach Library Program

by Naomi Angier
Librarian
Multnomah County Library

At the Multnomah County Library system, we run a program called the Juvenile Justice Outreach library program. It is a full time library program at the Donald E. Long Detention Center—a county facility that serves the tri-county metro area. Donald E. Long houses about 100 incarcerated youth ages 12 to 18. The library program includes a full-time librarian who purchases new recreational paperbacks for a dedicated book collection for the youth at the Donald E. Long Detention Center. These books reflect the life-styles, personal interests and reading levels of the youth. They are housed in the multi-purpose room at the Juvenile Detention Center. The librarian takes a large book truck of books to each living unit on a weekly basis where the youth can check out up to five books each. She advises the youth on which books would match their reading tastes and level and asks for suggestions for other future purchases.

In addition to the weekly check-out times, the librarian also visits each classroom at the Donald E. Long School (since the youth are school age, they have school from 9:00 to 3:00 each school day). These visits are either book talks (telling the youth about certain books) or book discussion groups (we read short stories and discuss them).


The library program also provides special guests. These guests have included nationally known authors. This past year, Ernest Gaines came to the detention center as part of the system wide library program “Everybody Reads.” The book everybody read was his *A lesson before Dying*. The librarian and the teachers read the entire books to the youth so that they were ready for Ernest Gaines visit and were able to ask informed questions. The year before that, Luis Rodriguez came to the Donald E. Long Detention Center on an American Library Association “ALIVE” grant. His book *Always Running: la vida loca gang days in LA* was very relevant to the youth. He gave a very inspirational talk on being

in gangs and getting out of that life-style.

Every summer, we take the Summer Reading Program into the detention center. Since the youth are limited as to what is allowed in their rooms, we give them bookmarks and new magazines as prizes.

The Juvenile Justice Outreach program started as a Library Services and Technology Act federal grant administered through the Oregon State Library to bring library services to the Multnomah County Juvenile Detention Home. Until the start of the grant, library services consisted of old, discarded paperbacks that were donated to the detention center.

Now both the Community Justice Department and Multnomah County Library fund the Juvenile Justice Outreach program.

On a personal level, I love this job. I have been a school librarian, a children’s public librarian and the teen specialist for the library system. This is my most gratifying job because these are teens who can really expand their world through reading. 



Are Libraries Still Uncool to Teens?

by Laura Mikowski
Youth Services Librarian
Hillsboro Public Library

What do teens really think about the library? Is your library a cool or uncool place for them to be at and use? Four years ago, in 1999, E. Meyers published an article for American Libraries asking the same question (<http://www.urbanlibraries.org/coolnessfactor.html>). It was entitled, *The coolness factor: Ten libraries listen to Youth*. This article examined the facets of the library that would deem it cool or uncool: technology, customer service, library space, books and materials, rules and regulations. The conclusion drawn was this: "Teens are not finding what they seek in our very uncool settings. However, they are optimistic about their ability to reform our nerdy ways and create a cool new library environment for themselves and friends."

Is my library uncool? Is your library uncool? Since this article is almost five years old, I wanted to know if my teens would agree with the conclusions drawn. I know there are areas in YA that need improvement, but to meet the demands of the kids in this article, I feel it would mostly depend on a large amount of capital outlay. Teens like pizzazz and flash and that type of enhancement always seems to take some cash. But I also thought, why not find out what some teens actually think of our library and their YA space? This required no capital outlay and would presumably give me some good ideas about where to work on enhancements. Using a simple survey based on this article, I surveyed a few random teens regarding some of the aspects listed above, hoping to gain more insight into cool vs. uncool. Here's what a few Washington County teens are saying about libraries and their experiences there:

I have adequate access to computers and software at your library.

Yes 6.5
No 1.5

Is there anything you'd like to see the library add to make it more technologically savvy?

Yes 1
No 7
No answer 3

Does the library staff seem approachable for help?

Yes 8
No 0

Librarians always have something better to do then help a student.

Yes 2
Rarely 4
No 2

When thinking of the library environment, describe the images or colors associated with it.

- Black and white, needs warmer colors though
- White, peaceful
- Warm and friendly; it helps that it's relatively small
- Beige, quiet
- Neutral colors

How would you update the library to make it more appealing to teens?

- larger YA section
- more books
- I like it the way it is
- As long as it has books, I find it very appealing
- More books
- Bigger YA section
- It's very appealing, there is a section and lots of research tools

Do you find the library carries current materials?

Yes 7
No 1



What materials are lacking for teens in the library?

- BOTs
- Nothing
- Nothing I can think of
- More YA reference
- Newer teen books

What materials do you most often check out? (Please number 1 through 5 with number 1 being the item you most often take home.)

Books 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2
 CDs NA, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4
 Movies/DVDs 2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4
 Magazines NA, 2, 3, 3, 5, 5, 5, 5
 Books on tape NA, 1, 2, 2, 4, 5, 5, 5

If you have an outstanding fine on your card, are you still able to use it to check out materials on your next visit?

- No
- Never tried
- Yes
- Yes, family shares cards so we get around this easily
- Yes, you can continue to check out materials
- Not sure, but I doubt it
- I always pay my fine when I'm told I have one
- Don't know

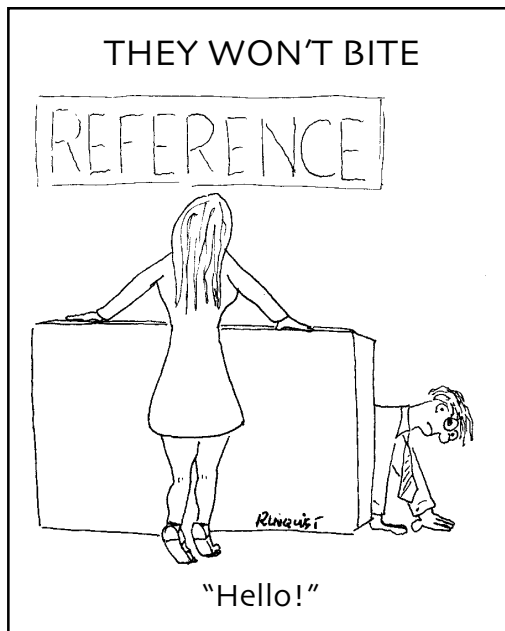
Is the library too restrictive in terms of noise level? Too quiet? Too loud? (Boy, does this result differ from what adults say!)

- Fine
- Perfect
- Just right
- Fine
- I think it's fine
- Perfect
- Just right

Would you like it if libraries allowed food and drink in them?

- Yes, in certain areas only
- No
- As long as they had enclosed containers to prevent spilling
- I don't really care either way
- No, it would make a mess
- No
- Yes, but I'd feel bad for the books
- No! Someone would definitely wreck something!

So, my library is doing pretty well, but it was a very small, in-house survey, and there's always room for improvement. Teens need comfortable places, big spaces and good materials. As Frasier Crane likes to say, "I'm listening," and hopefully you will begin, or continue to, as well. Taking action is probably the coolest thing you could do for your YA population, anyway. And truly, if you begin to address just one of the many aspects of teen service, you will definitely be on your way to becoming a cooler place. 🌿



YA 101 Resources

by Heidi Weisel
Youth Services Librarian
Corvallis-Benton County
Public Library

Just getting your YA area up and running? Here are some valuable resources for easy referral.

Print Resources for Working with Young Adults

Books

GENERAL

Jones, Patrick. *Connecting Young Adults and Libraries: A How-to-Do-It Manual*. 2nd ed. How-to-Do-It Manuals for Librarians 59. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 1998.

Jones, Patrick. *Do It Right! Best Practices for Serving Young Adults in School and Public Libraries*. Teens @ the Library ser. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2001.

Jones, Patrick. *New Directions for Library Service to Young Adults*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2002.

Jones, Patrick, Patricia Taylor, and Kirsten Edwards. *A Core Collection for Young Adults*. Teens @ the Library ser. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2003.

Vaillancourt, Renee J. *Bare Bones Young Adult Services: Tips for Public Library Generalists*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2nd Edition, 2000.

MARKETING

Braun, Linda W. Teens. *Library: Developing Internet Services for Young Adults*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2002.

Nichols, Mary Anne. *Merchandising Library Materials to Young Adults*. Libraries Unlimited Professional Guides for Young Adult Librarians ser. Greenwood Village, Colo: Libraries Unlimited, 2002.

Taney, Kimberly Bolan. *Teen Spaces: The Step-by-Step Library Make-over*. Chicago: American Library Association Editions, 2003.

Zollo, Peter. *Wise Up to Teens: Insights into Marketing and Advertising to Teenagers*. 2nd ed. Ithaca, NY: New Strategist Publications, 1999.

PROGRAMMING

Chelton, Mary K., ed. *Excellence in Library Services to Young Adults: The Nation's Top Programs*. 3rd ed. Chicago: American Library Association, 2000.

Edwards, Kirsten. *Teen Library Events: A Month-by-Month Guide*. Greenwood Professional Guides for Young Adult Librarians. Westport, Conn: Greenwood Press, 2002.

Honnold, RoseMary. *101+ Teen Programs that Work*. Teens @ the Library ser. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2003.

Kan, Katharine L. *Sizzling Summer Reading Programs for Young Adults*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1998.

READER'S ADVISORY

Ammon, Bette D., and Gale W. Sherman. *More Rip-Roaring Reads for Reluctant Teen Readers*. Englewood, Colo: Libraries Unlimited, 1999.

Bodart, Joni Richards. *The World's Best Thin Books: What to Read When Your Book Report is Due Tomorrow*. Rev. ed. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2000.

Carter, Betty. *Best Books for Young Adults*. 2nd ed. Chicago: American Library Association, 2000.

Darby, Mary Ann. *Hearing All the Voices: Multicultural Books for Adolescents*. Scarecrow Resource Guide ser. 2. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2002.

Gillespie, John Thomas, ed. *Best Books for Young Teen Readers, Grades 7 to 10*. New Providence, N.J.: R.R. Bowker, 2000.



Herald, Diana Tixier. *Teen Genreflecting: A Guide to Reading Interests*. 2nd ed. Westport, Conn: Libraries Unlimited, 2003.

Kunzel, Bonnie. *First Contact: A Reader's Selection of Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2001.

Schall, Lucy. *Booktalks Plus: Motivating Teens to Read*. Englewood, Colo: Libraries Unlimited, 2001.

Schwedt, Rachel E. *Young Adult Poetry: A Survey and Theme Guide*. Westport, Conn: Greenwood Press, 2002.

Spencer, Pam. *What Do Young Adults Read Next? A Reader's Guide to Fiction for Young Adults*. Vol. 4. Detroit: Gale Group, 2002.

Weiner, Stephen. *The 101 Best Graphic Novels*. New York: NBM, 2001

Periodicals

ALAN Review (Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (National Council of Teachers of English)
ISSN: 0882-2840
scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/ALAN/

Booklist
ISSN: 0006-7385
www.ala.org/booklist/

The Horn Book Magazine
ISSN: 0018-5078w
ww.hbook.com

Kliatt ISSN
ISSN: 1065-8602
hometown.aol.com/kliatt/

School Library Journal: SLJ
ISSN: 0362-8930
www.slj.com

Voice of Youth Advocates: VOYA
ISSN: 0160-4201
www.voya.com

Young Adult Library Services: The Official Journal of the Young Adult Library Services Association

ISSN: 1541-4302
www.ala.org/yalsa/

Online Resources General Resources

INTERNET PUBLIC LIBRARY—TEENSPACE
www.ipl.org/div/teen/

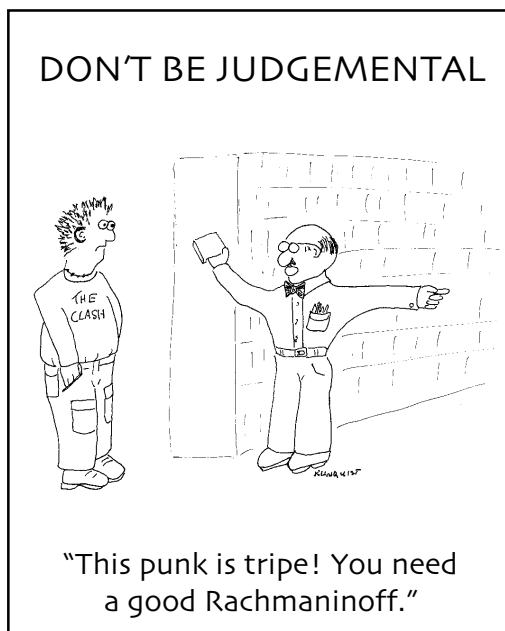
Online resources for homework help, personal interests and reader's advisory; provides online reference service.

SEARCH INSTITUTE—FORTY DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS FOR ADOLESCENTS

www.search-institute.org/assets/forty.htm
Identification of forty developmental assets for positive adolescent growth and development; includes research findings and asset building information.

TEENLIBRARIAN
www.teenlibrarian.com

Online community for young adult librarians; includes news, message board, chat room, directory, job information and links.



YA LIBRARIANS' HOMEPAGE

yahelp.suffolk.lib.ny.us/

Information for librarians serving teens; includes journals, organizations, literature and online resources.

Graphic Novels

COMIC BOOKS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/lml/comics/pages/

Introduction to comic books for librarians; includes formats, collection development issues, genres, publishers, recommendations and Internet resources.

THE COMICS GET SERIOUS: GRAPHIC NOVEL REVIEWS AND OTHER STUFF

www.rationalmagic.com/Comics/Comics.html

Full reviews of graphic novels; includes citations, genres, audiences, synopses and evaluations; reviews arranged by title, subject, kid-friendly titles and best and worst titles.

LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE TO ANIMÉ AND MANGA

www.koyagi.com/Libguide.html

Guide to animé (Japanese animation) and manga (Japanese comics); includes background information, recommended titles and print and Internet resources.

RECOMMENDED GRAPHIC NOVELS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

my.voyager.net/~sraiteri/graphicnovels.htm

Brief reviews of superheroes, science fiction and fantasy, comedy and Japanese manga graphic novels; includes starter collection titles and links to other graphic novel sites.

Lists

GNLIB-L (GRAPHIC NOVELS IN LIBRARIES)

www.topica.com/lists/GNLIB-L

www.angelfire.com/comics/gnlib

List for sharing resources and reviews of graphic novels and comics.

OYAN

webhost.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/oyan

List for facilitating discussion among OYAN members.

PUBYAC (PUBLIC LIBRARIES, YOUNG ADULTS AND CHILDREN)

www.pallasinc.com/pubyac

List for discussing children and young adult services in public libraries.

YALSA-BK

www.ala.org/yalsa/professional/yalsalists.html

List for discussing young adult books and issues concerning young adult literature.

YALSA-L

www.ala.org/yalsa/professional/yalsalists.html

List for sharing information about ALA and YALSA.

YA-YAAC

www.ala.org/yalsa/professional/yalsalists.html

List for sharing information and ideas between librarians and teens in library advisory groups.

Professional Organizations

ALAN

www.alan-ya.org

ALAN (Assembly on Literature for Adolescents) is a special-interest group of the National Council of Teachers of English.

OYAN

www.olaweb.org/oyan

OYAN (Oregon Young Adult Network) is a division of the Oregon Library Association.

YALSA

www.ala.org/yalsa/

YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) is a division of the American Library Association.



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SIRS Government Reporter – historic and government documents, directories and almanacs
SIRS Renaissance – current perspectives on the arts and humanities
SKS WebSelect – selected Web sites of paramount research value
SIRS Interactive Citizenship – a series of interactive electronic books that meet curriculum standards, *What Citizens Need to Know About ...*
• *Government* • *Economics* • *World Affairs*
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www.cplrmh.com

Materials for teen programs; includes detailed plans, library forms, sample handouts and reading lists.

BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2003

www.ala.org/bbooks/

Open Your Mind to a Banned Book
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www.ala.org/teenread/

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Online Bibliographies

BOOKLISTS FOR YOUNG ADULTS ON THE WEB

www.seemore.mi.org/booklists/

Lots of fiction and non-fiction booklists compiled by librarians, educators and others serving young adults.

FAVORITE TEENAGE ANGST BOOKS

www.grouchy.com/angst/

Geared to teens with lots of reviews of teen angst books plus links and a message board for book chats.

NO FLYING, NO TIGHTS

www.noflyingnotights.com/

Reviews of graphic novels for teens; includes genres, core lists and a forum for discussion.

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

The graphic novel is one of the fastest-growing categories in libraries today, but the most common misconception is that it is comprised of a single genre. At Dark Horse Comics, our first criteria for choosing titles to publish are the stories themselves. It could be crime/mystery, science fiction, action/adventure, war, fantasy, horror, humor, or general fiction. The Dark Horse line includes all of the genres you're already familiar with... order a catalog and you'll see why Dark Horse is the most diverse publisher in the graphic novel category!

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OYAN BOOK RAVE

www.olaweb.org/oyan/best.htm

Annual list of recommended young adult literature chosen by young adult librarians in Oregon.

READING RANTS—OUT OF THE ORDINARY TEEN BOOKLISTS

tln.lib.mi.us/~amutch/jen/

Lots of unique booklists and reviews written for teens, including Fanging Around, Deadheads and Mosh-pits, Gen-X Files and Riot Grrrrl!

TEENREADS.COM

www.teenreads.com/

Includes numerous book reviews, author interviews, book club information, literary contests and monthly newsletters and polls.

YALSA BOOKLISTS & BOOK AWARDS

www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/index.html

Numerous booklists created by YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association), a division of ALA:

Best Books for Young Adults
www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/bbya

Outstanding Books for the College Bound
www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/obcb

Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults
www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/poppaper

Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/quickpicks

Check Out These Young Adult Web Pages from Public Libraries

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System (GA)
www.af.public.lib.ga.us/teens/y_atl/index.html

Baltimore County Public Library (MD)
www.bcplonline.org/info/teen/

Hennepin County Public Library (MN)
www.hclib.org/teens/

Las Vegas—Clark County Library District (NV)
www.lvccld.org/teens/

Pasadena Public Library (CA)
www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/libraryteens/

Phoenix Public Library (AZ)
www.phoenixtecentral.org/tcwebapp/index.jsp

Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (OH)
teenspace.cincinnati.library.org

Vancouver Public Library (BC)
www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca/branches/LibrarySquare/teens/home.html

Central Rappahannock Regional Library (VA)
www.teenspoint.org

Burlington Public Library (ON)
www.bpl.on.ca/bplteens/thezone.htm



More Public Library Web sites with Young Adult Web Pages

Virtual YA Index: Public Libraries with Young Adult Web Pages
yahelp.suffolk.lib.ny.us/virtual.html

Young Adult Book Awards

Alex Awards

www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/alex
 The Alex Awards annually recognize adult fiction and non-fiction books for their appeal to teen readers.

Coretta Scott King Award

www.ala.org/srrt/csking/
 The Coretta Scott King Award is granted annually to authors and illustrators of African descent whose distinguished books promote an understanding and appreciation of the “American Dream.”

Margaret A. Edwards Award

www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists
 The Margaret A. Edwards Award honors an author’s lifetime achievement for writing books that have been popular with adolescents over a period of time.

Michael L. Printz Award

www.ala.org/yalsa/printz
 The Michael L. Printz Award is an annual award for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature.

National Book Award—Young People’s Literature

www.nationalbook.org/nba.html
 The National Book Awards are granted annually by the National Book Foundation to books of exceptional merit.

Oregon Book Awards—Leslie Bradshaw Award for Young Readers

www.literary-arts.org
 The Oregon Book Awards are presented annually for the finest accomplishments by Oregon writers.

Pura Belpré Award

www.ala.org/alsc/belpre.html
 The Pura Belpré Award is presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience.

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award

www.ala.org/alsc/sibert.html
 The Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award is given annually to the author of the most distinguished informational book published during the preceding year.

Young Reader’s Choice Award (YRCA)

pnla.org/yrca/index.htm
 The YRCA is the oldest children’s choice award in the United States and Canada. Sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Library Association, young adult readers can vote annually for their favorite books in the Junior, Intermediate or Senior categories.

