



200

TWO HUNDRED YEARS

OF YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY SERVICES HISTORY

A CHRONOLOGY

UPDATE 2007

Youth Participation Milestones and More

COMPILED BY ANTHONY BERNIER AND CATHI DUNN MACRAE

[Editor's Note: This first update since the Chronology was published in VOYA's June 2005 issue focuses on highlights of the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) fifty-year history in this anniversary year, including milestones in the development of youth participation policies. So that these additions won't disappear within the existing lengthy Chronology at e-voya, they are published online in this separate document and also integrated within the original. Find a link to the entire Chronology at the bottom of VOYA's home page at <http://www.voya.com>. Future Chronology updates will occur approximately every two years. Library professionals and students are invited to suggest additions; see submission guidelines at the beginning of the full-length Chronology.]

1873 The first young adult nonfiction book, **What Every Young Man Should Know**, is published as a reaction to "dangerous sexual times" (Campbell).

1942 **Top of the News** begins as an eight-page news quarterly serving the ALA Division of Libraries for Children and Young People (DLCYP) with its first editor, Gladys English of the Los Angeles Public Library (Baggett).

1948 ALA's Committee on Post-war Planning publishes **The Public Library Plans for the Teen Age** in conjunction with the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People (DLCYP) and its section, the Young People's Reading Round Table (YPRRT) (American Library Association, **The Public Library Plan for the Teen Age**).

1949 Young People's Reading Round Table (YPRRT) changes its name to the Association of Young People's Librarians (AYPL) (Jenkins, April 2, 2007).

1977 **YA Hotline** begins publication out of Dalhousie University

School of Library Service in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada; its first issue is dated October 1977 (*The Top, Top of the News*, Winter 1978).

- YASD Research Committee publishes *Media and the Young Adult: A Selected Bibliography, 1950-1972* (YASD Research Committee, **Top of the News**).

- YASD produces a "Survival Kit," justifying young adult services as a part of any total public library program (*The Top, Top of the News*, Winter 1977).

1978 YASD/RASD Committee on Service to the Spanish-speaking publishes first edition of *Libros a tu Gusto*, a list of books available in Spanish for young adults (*The Top, Top of the News*, Summer 1978).

- YASD Board of Directors establishes a committee on Library Services for Spanish-Speaking Youth (*The Top, Top of the News*, Spring 1978).

- YASD's first regional institute, "Adolescent Sexuality and the Role of the Youth Librarian," is hosted by Villanova University Graduate Department of Library Science (*The Top, Top of the News*, Spring 1979).

1979 Youth Caucus attends as delegates to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services (Dickson, 207); one

of its resolutions recommends installing teen voting members in library boards on every level—state, national, and local (Lippman).

1980 YASD publishes “Sex Education for Adolescents: A Bibliography of Low-Cost Materials,” in partnership with Planned Parenthood and the American Academy of Pediatrics (Eaglen).

1981 YASD establishes ad hoc Youth Participation in Library Decision-Making Committee to expedite the inclusion of teens in voting capacities on library boards (Lippman).

- First meeting of YASD Computer Applications to Young Adult Services Discussion Group is held at ALA Annual Conference (*The Top, Top of the News*, Spring 1981, 213).
- YASD Board establishes YASD Publications Committee with charge of developing a publication program in the areas of YA services and materials and identifying topics, coordinating YASD publications, and preparing guidelines for YASD publications (*The Top, Top of the News*, Spring 1981, 214).

1982 Evie Wilson’s YASD President’s Program is “Youth Participation in Library Decision-Making,” the division’s debut program on the topic, which offers the first youth participation guidelines for libraries (Lippman).

- YASD produces “Competencies for Librarians Serving Youth” (Perritt and Heim).

1983 YASD publishes **Youth Participation in School and Public Libraries** in partnership with the National Commission on Resources for Youth, expanding youth participation goals to give “young adults real control and responsibility for developing and carrying out projects” (Lippman).

1984 ALA publishes **Magazines for Young Adults**, the first guide of its kind recognizing young adult specialists’ need for guidance in this area as separate from school librarians (*The Top, Top of the News*, Fall 1984).

1985 In an open letter to librarians, the Young Adult Advisory Board (YAAB) at Enoch Pratt Central Library in Baltimore, Maryland, appeals for more youth involvement in YASD’s Best Books for Young Adults (BBYA) list (*Up for Discussion, VOYA* August 1985).

1986 A proposal for an annual youth-produced version of the BBYA list is sent to the YASD Youth Participation Committee by the Young Adult Advisory Board (YAAB) at Enoch Pratt Central Library in Baltimore, Maryland (MacRae).

- YASD’s Intellectual Freedom Committee publishes “You Are Not Alone—Intellectual Freedom Issues and Library Services to Youth” packet (*The Top, Top of the News*, Spring 1986).

1987 **Top of the News**, serving both children’s and young adult librarians since 1942, ceases publication under that title and becomes **The Journal of Youth Services in Libraries (JOYS)** (Karrenbrock).

- YASD’s Youth Participation in Library Decision-Making Committee changes status from ad hoc to permanent with a simplified name, Youth Participation Committee (MacRae).

1989 At an ALA Midwinter YASD session on January 7, the Young Adult Advisory Board (YAAB) from Enoch Pratt Central Library in Baltimore, Maryland, becomes the first teen group to speak at a BBYA meeting (Herald and Monnier).

- Pratt Central Library’s YAAB joins with teen readers from other Baltimore branches for an all-day conference to select their own “Youth-to-Youth Books: A List for Imagination and Survival,” which

would later become a model for YALSA’s Teens’ Top Ten Books (MacRae, *The View from VOYA*, June 2007; Enoch Pratt Free Library).

1991 YASD publishes **Youth Participation in Libraries: A Training Manual** (Youth Participation Committee).

1994 YALSA Board of Directors passes the “Youth Attendance at Best Books for Young Adults Meetings” motion allowing teens to attend one BBYA meeting at each ALA conference (MacRae).

- A joint ALA Chapter Relations/YALSA Task Force on the Teenage Library Association explores the establishment of an ALA Teenage Library Association, modeled on school library-affiliated organizations in Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Texas (Wendt).

1995 The first sanctioned appearance of teens at a YALSA BBYA meeting, chaired by Audra Caplan, occurs on February 5 at ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia (Herald and Monnier).

- ALA Editions publishes **Youth Participation in School and Public Libraries: It Works**, edited by Carolyn Caywood with YALSA’s Youth Participation Committee (**Youth Participation in School and Public Libraries: It Works**).

1996 Instead of founding a national Teenage Library Association, YALSA begins a cooperative venture with Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) to encourage school and public library teen groups to join the Junior Friends Network (Wendt).

1997 YALSA approves national Youth Participation Guidelines (YALSA Web site).

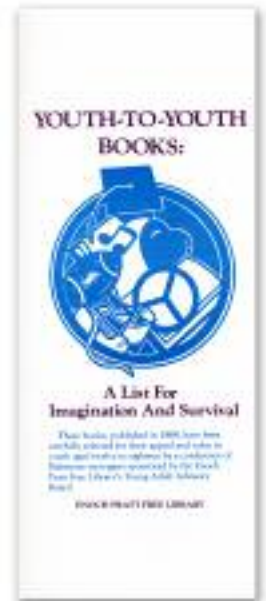
- Julie Walker is appointed Executive Director of both AASL and YALSA (Habley).

1999 YALSA’s Teens’ Top Ten Task Force begins its first pilot project with two teen test groups in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Mesa, Arizona (Krahnke; *FYI: Testing . . . the Teens’ Top Ten Best Books* 1999).

2001 YALSA’s Teens’ Top Ten merges with another pilot project, YA Galley, whose sixteen teen groups receive galleys from publishers and send reviews back in exchange (*FYI: Teens’ Top Ten Books* 2001).

- YALSA creates a Youth Participation Coordinator position to manage teen participants in the organization and its conference programs (Herald and Monnier).

2002 YALSA’s and ALSC’s joint publication, **Journal of Youth Services in Libraries**, ceases with the Summer issue, to be replaced by two journals, one for each division: YALSA’s **Young Adult Library Services (YALS)** and



ALSC's **Children and Libraries** (Murphy).

- YALSA's YA Galley Committee is created to administer Teens' Top Ten Books (MacRae).

2004 With the significant growth of the division, Beth Anne Yoke becomes YALSA's first full-time Executive Director. Julie Walker remains as Executive Director of AASL (Murphy; Habley).

- David C. Mowery is YALSA president (Murphy).
- Dawn P. Vaughn is AASL president (Habley).

2005 Pam Spencer Holley is YALSA president (Murphy).

- J. Linda Williams is AASL president (Habley).

2006 Judy T. Nelson is YALSA president (Murphy).

- Cyndi Phillip is AASL president (Habley).

2007 YALSA celebrates its 50th year as the world leader in recommending reading, listening, and viewing for teens (YALSA Web site).

- YALSA's first Teen Literature Day, April 19 during National Book Week, celebrates awareness among the general public that young adult literature is a vibrant, growing genre with much to offer today's teens (YALSA Web site).

- YALSA's first Teen Tech Week (March 4–10, 2007) demonstrates the important role that technology plays in teen life and the need for librarians to integrate the ways that teens use technology into their programs and services (YALSA Web site).

- Paula Brehm-Heeger is YALSA president (Murphy).
- Sara Kelly Johns is AASL president (Habley). ■

SOURCES

American Library Association. **The Public Library Plans for the Teen Age**. Series: **Planning for Libraries**, Number 7, 1948.

Baggett, Carolyn. *Happy Birthday, TOP OF THE NEWS! A Brief Look at Its First Forty Years*. **Top of the News**, Vol. 39, No. 1, Fall 1982, 114-117.

Campbell, Patty. **Sex Guides: Books and Films about Sexuality for Young Adults**. Garland, 1986.

Eaglen, Audrey B. *YASD President's Message*, **Top of the News**, Vol. 37, No. 1, Fall 1980, 23.

Enoch Pratt Free Library Young Adult Advisory Board (YAAB). "Youth-to-Youth Books: A List for Imagination and Survival." Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland, June 1989.

FYI: Teens' Top Ten Books 2001, **VOYA** December 2001, 329.

FYI: Testing . . . The Teens' Top Ten Best Books 1999, **VOYA** December 1999, 303.

Habley, Jennifer. E-mail communication, June 5, 2007.

Herald, Diana Tixier, and Diane P. Monnier. *The Beasts Have Arrived: The Blooming of Youth Participation in the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)*. **VOYA** June 2007, 116-19.

Jenkins, Christine A. E-mail communication, April 2, 2007.

Karrenbrock, Marilyn H. *A History and Analysis of Top of the News, 1942-1987*, **The Journal of Youth Services in Libraries**, 33.

Krahnke, Kitty. *Teens Test Best Books in Public/School Library Book Group*, **VOYA** December 1999, 318-19.

Lippman, Ellen, with Steve Arbus. **Youth Participation in School and Public Libraries**. National Commission on Resources for Youth/Young Adult Services Division of the American Library Association, 1983.

MacRae, Cathi Dunn. Personal files.

MacRae, Cathi Dunn. *The View from VOYA: The Power of Radically Trusting Teens*, **VOYA** Editorial, June 2007, 101.

Murphy, Esther. E-mail communication, May 30, 2007.

Perritt, Patsy H., and Kathleen M. Heim. *ALA-Accredited Master's Degree: Considerations for Youth Services Librarianship*, **Top of the News**, Vol. 43, No. 2, Winter 1987, 154.

The Top. Top of the News: Vol. 33, No. 2, Winter 1977, 119; Vol. 34, No. 2, Winter 1978, 119; Vol. 34, No. 3, Spring 1978, 214; Vol. 34, No. 4, Summer 1978, 317; Vol. 35, No. 3, Spring 1979, 219; Vol. 37, No. 3, Spring 1981, 213; Vol. 37, No. 3, Spring 1981, 214; Vol. 41, No. 1, Fall 1984, 16; Vol. 42, No. 3, Spring 1986, 209.

Up for Discussion, **VOYA** August 1985, 168-69.

Wendt, Ma'lis. YALSA Teenage Library Association Task Force Reports, 1993–1996.

YASD Research Committee. *Media and the Young Adult: 1950–1972*, **Top of the News**, Vol. 33, No. 3, Spring 1977, 258.

Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Web site (<http://www.ala.org/yalsa>).

Youth Participation Committee/Young Adult Services Division. **Youth Participation in Libraries: A Training Manual**. American Library Association, 1991. **VOYA** February 1992.

Youth Participation Guidelines, <http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/aboutyalsab/nationalyouth.htm>.

Youth Participation in School and Public Libraries: It Works. Carolyn Caywood, Ed. ALA Editions, 1995.

Anthony Bernier, one of the four original 2005 Chronology compilers, is Assistant Professor of Youth Services at San Jose State University's School of Library and Information Science in California. He is former Director of Teen Services at Oakland Public Library, following ten years as Young Adult Specialist Librarian for the Los Angeles Public Library. He received a Ph.D. in History from the University of California in 2002. He has written about library teen spaces for VOYA and is editing a book on that topic. He thanks SJSU SLIS graduate student Morgan Pershing for assistance in compiling and formatting these 2007 Chronology additions.

Cathi Dunn MacRae collected library youth participation milestones for this Chronology update in conjunction with the preparation of two June 2007 VOYA pieces about youth participation in YALSA: her editorial and Herald and Monnier's article, The Beasts Have Arrived. She has been Editor-in-Chief of VOYA since 1997. Previously she spent twenty years as a young adult librarian in public libraries in Maryland and Colorado.