

EXTENDING THE FIVE-FOOT BOOKSHELF

More Essential
Books for
Professionals
Who Serve Teens

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When declaring eleven books as “must-read” additions to VOYA’s eleventh annual professional bookshelf, reviewers were clear: “mandatory reading” . . . the author “does a great service by writing this book” . . . “important contribution to the body of professional resources” . . . “without question, the one that every young adult librarian needs to add to their professional reading stack.” At last, books that clarify the importance of technology to teens claim their fair share of four spaces on the list. Redefining literacy to include technology, five books find fresh approaches to reading and reading promotion. Two populations often seen as problematic finally have their service needs described with authority: adolescent males and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) teens. The best news is that members of specialties within our profession are sharing wisdom—most titles here are recommended for school and public librarians and educators. Bravo for working together.

The books in this list were reviewed in VOYA from December 2006 through this October 2007 issue. Quotations within book summaries come from our reviews. *Five-Foot Bookshelf* recommendations have appeared annually in October issues since 1997.

THE FIVE-FOOT BOOKSHELF UPDATE 2007

Booth, David. **Reading Doesn’t Matter Anymore: A New Way to Look at Reading.** Pembroke/Stenhouse, 2006. 176p. \$15 pb. 978-1-57110-492-2. Further Reading. VOYA August 2007, p. 280.

In a “scholarly yet exceptionally readable text,” Booth calls for a redefinition of literacy and reading education. He makes “a crucial statement of reading being more than novels: It is the Internet, e-mail, comics, text-messaging, and more.” Validating educators who bemoan the current emphasis on assessment, Booth provides 101 Literacy Events for the classroom. In this “must-have for literacy educators, Booth asks, ‘What role does school play in determining roles that books will hold in young people’s lives? Any?’” This book also benefits “educational critics and policy-makers.”

Booth, Heather. **Serving Teens Through Readers’ Advisory.** ALA Editions, 2007. 159p. \$36 pb. 978-08389-0930-2. Glossary. Index. Charts. Biblio. Source Notes. Chronology. Appendix. VOYA October 2007, p. 377.

“This excellently organized and researched book offers the basics of readers’ advisory (RA) service and shows how easily and efficiently it can be adapted for work with teen patrons.” Booth “stresses the absolute importance of not making judgments about reading choices with teens.” She covers situations unique to teens such as homework help and dual interviews with teens and their parents, and evaluates both print and electronic RA resources. “This must-have purchase . . . should be mandatory reading for all staff members who work directly with teens and any others who have daily contact with teen patrons.”

Braun, Linda W. **Teens, Technology, and Literacy: Or, Why Bad Grammar Isn’t Always Bad.** Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 128p. \$30 pb. 978-1-59158-368-4. Index. Photos. Source Notes. Appendix. VOYA October 2007, p. 377.



“Braun does educators, especially librarians, a great service by writing this book.” She “shows that every type of technology used by teens for communication, schoolwork, and leisure reinforces and hones literacy skills. Clear, concise, and intelligent, this volume is a treasure trove of information,” revealing how teens “incorporate technology into virtually every facet of their lives.” From “vodcast” to “folksonomy,” Braun “explains new technologies in a user-friendly way . . . Revelatory and sharp, this unique book offers . . . many mind-expanding ideas . . . sure to guarantee positive interactions with teen students and library patrons.”

Honnold, RoseMary, for the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). **Get Connected: Tech Programs for Teens.** Neal-Schuman, 2007. 149p. \$45 pb. 978-1-55570-613-5. Index. Illus. Photos. Charts. Further Reading. Appendix. VOYA October 2007, p. 379.



“This book is, without question, the one that every young adult librarian needs to add to their professional reading stack this year.” Introducing teen tech programs that have worked in actual libraries, it covers fun programs from digital art to gaming as well as tutorials. It also offers “concrete ways to involve youth in publicizing and recruiting for their own group.” In this “highly recommended” resource “for any librarian or teacher involved in planning youth programs,” the “real problem is deciding which program to start with.”

Jones, Patrick, Maureen L. Hartman, and Patricia Taylor. **Connecting with Reluctant Teen Readers: Tips, Titles, and Tools.** Neal-Schuman, 2006. 314p. \$59.95 pb. 978-1-55570-571-8. Index. Biblio. VOYA February 2007, p. 566.



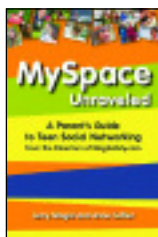
“If one is looking for inspired ways to get more kids from the ‘hate reading’ to the ‘love reading’ state, here is the perfect book. A masterful compilation of ‘tips, titles, and tools’ is amassed from the expertise of YA librarians, teachers, and researchers across the country.” Four types of reluctant readers are identified, with strategies for engaging each. When classifying “certain kinds of reading (e.g. magazines, repair manuals) as substandard,” the authors ask, “are librarians consistently discouraging readers with . . . the same set of award-winning books?” Those who “invest in this book” will “really make a difference in the reading lives of teenagers.”

Kunzel, Bonnie, and Constance Hardesty. **Teen-Centered Book Club: Readers into Leaders.** Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 213p. \$40 pb. 978-1-59158-193-2. Index. Source Notes. Appendix. VOYA April 2007, p. 89.



“This complete and comprehensive guide to planning and running successful and relevant teen book clubs” prepares teen readers and adult facilitators to work together. Its “wide selection of conventional and innovative book club ideas” runs from blogging to bookchatters, in which everyone reads a different book. Offering “wise and useful advice” about what to read, publicity, discussion questions, activities, and more, “[t]his guide is meticulously organized, carefully researched, and highly readable with practical elements that can be readily applied.” It’s an “important contribution to the body of professional resources for those working with teens, books, and reading in schools, libraries, and other settings.”

Magid, Larry, and Anne Collier. **MySpace Unraveled: A Parent’s Guide to Teen Social Networking.** Peachpit Press, 2007. 184p. \$14.99 pb. 978-0-321-48018-7. Illus. VOYA December 2006, p. 470.



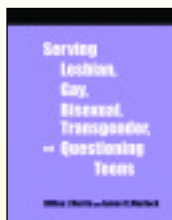
Demystifying MySpace and other social networking sites, this “breath of fresh air” is an antidote to “fear and hype.” Magid and Collier analyze what MySpace is, how teens use it, why it matters, and sensible ways to keep teens safe online. As the authors show parents how to set up a MySpace page, they insert “Key Parenting Points” regarding unwise practices worth discussing with teens. “The book is easy-to-read, filled with colorful screenshots, and sure to help parents understand what their role is in their teen’s involvement with social networking.” It’s “a quality resource to recommend to parents”—not to mention its insight for librarians who work with teens.

Mahood, Kristine. **A Passion for Print: Promoting Reading and Books to Teens.** Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 224p. \$40 pb. 978-1-59158-146-8. Index. Photos. Biblio. Further Reading. Appendix. VOYA December 2006, p. 471.



“Impressive in its organization and depth of information, this great resource covers practically everything young adult for the public or high school librarian.” Meshing research about teens from fields such as merchandising with the library’s mission and teens’ own needs and preferences, Mahood explains how to provide literature-centered teen library services, from readers’ advisory to designing teen spaces and Web sites. She “comfortably incorporates a thought-provoking combination of philosophical and practical application. . . . One can strongly recommend it to seasoned veterans . . . or new young adult librarians.”

Martin, Hillias J., and James R. Murdock. **Serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Teens: A How-to-Do-It Manual for Librarians.** Neal-Schuman, 2007. 267p. \$55 pb. 978-1-55570-566-4. VOYA August 2007, p. 282.



Librarians wonder how best to serve the LGBTQ teen population in the title of this manual, which “answers these questions with clear-eyed views on the subjects of resistance to change and the needs of young adults.” It offers resources for librarians and teachers, including a core collection and advice on booktalking this challenging subject. “The book is unusually thorough and contains many useful suggestions

as well as the important and emotionally satisfying acknowledgment both of youth and librarian needs and realities. . . . Every library should have this book,” which makes it clear that “a library safe haven can do more than get reading material to young people; it can save self-esteem and in some cases, lives.”

Welch, Rollie James. **The Guy-Friendly YA Library: Serving Male Teens.** Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 196p. \$40 pb. 978-059158-270-0. Index. VOYA October 2007, p. 380.



Welch proposes three components for “guy-friendly” service: a designated teen librarian, promotion of appealing materials, and knowing the needs of male teens. Giving details about boys’ reading habits and interests, Welch recommends many high-interest books from various genres. “If reaching more teen males is a goal, this wonderful and highly readable resource . . . is an excellent place to start. . . . [T]eachers might . . . steer clear of this book because the title contains the term ‘library’” but they “would be well served to peruse this well-organized and insightful introduction.”

Willard, Nancy E. **Cyberbullying and Cyberthreats: Responding to the Challenge of Online Social Aggression, Threats, and Distress.** Research Press, 2007. 320p. \$34.95 pb. 978-0-87822-537-8. Glossary. Index. Source Notes. Appendix. VOYA June 2007, p. 187.

“Everything one needs to know about cyberbullying is in this book. Willard’s presentation is direct, clear, well documented,” and makes the connection between bullying and cyberbullying. She provides plans for schools to address this problem and overviews all the technologies, from chat and text messaging to gaming and social networking, that provide opportunities for cyberbullying. She also guides teens in creating an online profile. “There is no excess in this superbly written and much-needed professional text. If there is a child and a computer in one’s life, it is a necessary read.” ■

FIVE-FOOT BOOKSHELF CRITERIA

The intent of this professional reading list is to “identify books that increase our understanding of teenagers and how to serve them, serve as an inspiration for youth workers, and/or add to our knowledge of the field.” (VOYA October 1997, p. 225.) These books are so essential that it would be difficult to serve teens without having read them. All titles were reviewed in VOYA during the past year.

Included:

- Professional books for both public and school librarians addressing policy issues, evaluation, public relations, advocacy, intellectual freedom, youth participation, programming, new research findings, education, literacy, technology, and similar topics.
- Books from other disciplines on adolescent development; current youth issues; racial, ethnic, and gender issues; teen culture; and youth development (including such topics as mentoring, dropout prevention, and delinquency prevention).

Excluded:

- Collection development tools, bibliographies, and lists of recommended books for young adults.
- Biographies or critiques of authors.
- Books designed as textbooks in library or education courses.
- Resource guides to Web sites, reference materials, etc.