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Newsletter

IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From the YSS Chair...

I am looking out the window across from my office and it looks almost fall-like. The sky is cloudy and it is so chilly in the library from the air conditioning that I can almost believe that autumn is upon us. I know from my calendar that we still have six official weeks of summer and that if I were to step outside I would be blasted with a wall of hot, humid air. We are coming up though on my favorite time of year, when the leaves start changing color, you can smell wood smoke in the air and the weather is crisp. As I drive through Des Moines to get to work in the morning I think how exciting it is to be here in Iowa and experience the changes in the seasons. I think it helps that I also just came back from a few days in San Diego where I found myself freezing half the time in their 70 degree temperatures. Friends asked if I missed living there and I could honestly say no. I spent so much time there sitting in traffic that we only experience in Des Moines for about 30 minutes during rush hour but there the traffic is that insane all day long in San Diego. My 30 mile commute to work use to take an hour—on good days!

Speaking of good days we will have some of those coming up soon—with the ILA conference only seven weeks away (as I write this). We have some really awesome YSS programs planned, including a pre-conference program that is a DON'T MISS! Read inside for the details.

Details, now there is a good word. Summer reading is all about details. So many little things to work out and it is over before you know it. We had a world of fun this summer in Des Moines. We tried some new programs that worked out well and got lots of raves—including Mike Anderson, the Dulcimer guy and David Casas, the magician. We also had a local organization called CULTUREALL do five programs for us featuring local “ambassadors” from Japan, India, Kenya, the Columbian rainforest, and Russia. Our completion rates were the highest in the five summers I've been at DMPL and all of the staff is happy with the success. Thirty-two of our 130 teen volunteers celebrated their successful summer with us by attending a private pool party just for them at one of our City pools. It had been raining all afternoon but about 10 minutes after the party started the sky cleared and they had a blast having the pool to themselves, eating pizza and ice cream bars that were quickly melting.

YSS has awards to give out in October and needs to recruit new officers so I hope you will read about the details inside. I also hope you will consider either nominating someone you know or yourself for an officer's position. The rewards far outweigh any time commitments.

See you in Council Bluffs. Don't forget to come say hello at the YSS booth during the conference!

Audrey Jones
YSS Chair
Des Moines Public Library

DON'T MISS ILA 2011!

Once again, a preview of the upcoming ILA conference shows that there are some awesome sessions planned. I've often heard people say that they "know this stuff already" and don't need to attend conferences and workshops. I happen to think you can learn something new every day—especially when you attend conferences and workshops. Maybe you'll get turned on to a brand new author, or learn about a possible teen program, or find out one thing that would make your grant proposal the winning one. You won't know unless you attend. And if you don't think you can learn something at a session, you might bump into someone you knew once upon a time and reconnect, or visit a vendor booth and find just the book you needed for a new fifth grade research project. There are certainly some exciting Youth Services sessions planned, including a "don't miss" preconference event on Wednesday. Here are the details:

Preconference Session

Supporting and Engaging the Teens in Your Library: Meeting the Challenge

Wednesday, October 12, 2011 10:00-3:00 PM

Join David Wilmes, Director of Saint Paul Youth Services and Karen Kolb Peterson, Youth Services Manager at Saint Paul Public Library for the day that will provide practical solutions and ideas for welcoming diverse populations of teens to the library while also preserving the behavioral norms of the library. The training will include information on youth development, bullying, common struggles for power and respect, useful tools for behavior management, and social marketing concepts, planning for staff success. This workshop is \$25 and includes lunch.

Conference Sessions

Finding the Magic: Best Picture Books of 2011, presented by Jerri Heid, Ames Public Library

Always a popular session, Jerri will share some of the APL's staff picks for this year! A bibliography of the recommended books will still be available.

Accountable Kids, presented by Traci Briseno, Ames Public Library

Children and teens often accumulate fines and can't repay them. Traci will discuss an innovative program at the Ames Public Library, in which teens volunteer at the library in order to pay off their fines.

From Chaos to Engaging Connections with Challenging Youth, presented by David Wilmes and Karen Kolb Peterson, Saint Paul Public Library

Looking for practical solutions to behavioral issues among the teens who show up at your library daily? Trying to find ways to welcome teens into the library but instill respect for libraries at the same time? If so, this is a perfect session to attend, whether you work with teens every day or try to stay away from them as much as possible!

The Yin and Yang of Teen Services, presented by Anna Hartmann, Council Bluffs Public Library, and Paul Christopherson, Omaha Public Library

Learn about running a regular teen program calendar that takes both your surroundings and your service area into account. Presenters will also cover special events, partnerships, school visits, and teen volunteers.

I hope you find one reason to attend ILA—even if it is just for the day. And if you aren't finding a reason to attend, maybe you need to tell us what would get you to attend the conference. What is the one thing you want to learn or find out about?

Hope to see you soon! And don't forget to stop by the YSS Booth!

Audrey Jones
YSS Chair
Des Moines Public Library

BOLDLY GOING WHERE I'VE NEVER GONE BEFORE!

It's the third day of school with kids, and I've just submitted a requisition for 31 e-books for my secondary library. Yes, my heart rate and breathing quickened as I clicked the keys to send the necessary forms to my principal. That done, I grabbed the folder with the notes I'd taken during the spring and summer while I researched the best way to implement this 21st century technology in my small, rural school district. Bit by bit my questions were again answered by my notes, and my concerns were eased. Deep breath. As I wrote to my principal, "We might as well jump in and test the waters!"

Wow. We live in an amazing world. I moved from the role of English teacher to teacher librarian 17 years ago. Back then, I was excited when we got quarterly CD upgrades to our *SIRs* and *EBSCO* databases. Please realize that I grew up with the trusty *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*. Within a year or so, we were accessing those databases online, and a whole new world of search engines was developing. The pace seemed fast then, but it's at the speed of light now. Another deep breath.

Three sophomore women interviewed me this morning for a history class. Their questions focused on changes in technology and this year's move to 1:1 in the Edgewood-Colesburg Jr/Sr High School. This means that every seventh through twelfth grade student has a new MacBook computer. Wow again. My colleagues and I are adjusting our teaching to connect with how our students learn. I told my interviewers that part of my focus is to help them determine the difference between valuable information and junk. I told them I'm blown away by the possibilities for them to figure things out. And I took another deep breath as I considered how hard I'm going to have to run to try to keep up.



Exciting stuff.

Marsha Hauser, K-12 Teacher Librarian
Edgewood-Colesburg CSD

SELECTION TOOLS OUTSIDE THE BOX

Part of good collection development is knowing where to find the newest and greatest books. For so long we have relied on the standards such as *School Library Journal*, *Horn Book Book List*, and *H.W. Wilson's Core Collection for Children* among others, and while these are great selection tools if you want to wait six months to read the reviews, today's library patrons want books that are still being unpacked at the local bookstore. Everyone knows the release date to new and upcoming books—think back to when *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins came out. Weren't you waiting with bated breath? How many times have you been asked, "When is *Inheritance* by Christopher Paolini coming out?"

Library vendors such as Ingram's, BWI, Baker and Taylor and Brodart do a great job of letting us know the forthcoming titles through catalogs and lists but if you don't use a vendor you might not have access to them. One of my personal favorites is Baker and Taylor's Publishers Presents Powerpoints provided on their webpage at http://www.btol.com/promo_details.cfm?id=445. My second favorite is BWI's "What New" section but you have to have your own log-on to access it.

Other sources to help in collection development and selection are newsletters, blogs, author's websites and other sites dedicated to children and young adult books. Check out these sites and sign up today to start receiving information on upcoming children's books.

Danielle Day
YSS Awards Chair
Carnegie-Stout Public Library

Candlewick Press

<http://www.candlewick.com/newsletter.asp>

Harper Collins

<http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/Teachers/TeachingResources.aspx>
<http://www.harpercollins.com/members/authortracker/>

Random House

<http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/subscribe.html>

Penguin Publishing

<http://us.penguinroup.com/static/pages/youngreaders/teachers-librarians/index.html>

Fuse 8 Production Blog

<http://blog.schoollibraryjournal.com/afuse8production/>

Chicken House Publishing

<http://www.doublecluck.com/>

Publishers Weekly Newsletter

<http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/email-subscriptions/index.html>

Simon & Schuster

<http://www.simonandschuster.com/preference-center>

Teen Reads and Kids Read

<http://www.teenreads.com/>
<http://www.kidsreads.com/>



*Know of any other selection tools outside the box? Send to Danielle Day at dday@dubuque.lib.ia.us

GET INVOLVED

Are you a team player?

If so, YSS has a place for you! The officers of YSS are a great team and now's your chance to take an active role on that team.

As a team, we:

- ◆ Work with representatives from each service area to set goals for the year
- ◆ Attend the ILA planning session and get to suggest presenters for the next conference
- ◆ Write articles four times a year for the newsletter
- ◆ Encourage active involvement of all librarians serving the needs of young people
- ◆ "run" the annual YSS meetings at the ILA conference

It's nomination time! We are actively seeking candidates to serve as officers on the committee. We need a vice chair who will be chair in 2013 and a secretary for 2012. I will be moving up to past chair/awards chair in January and Zachary Stier will become chair. Danielle Day will be stepping down as awards chair. Natalie Struecker is continuing on as newsletter editor, even though she was just promoted to Head of Reference at the Rock Island Public Library. If you want to win friends and influence people, email me at aciones@dmpl.org and let me know if you are interested in being a YSS officer.

I also want to thank Danielle Day for her years of service to the subdivision. Danielle was secretary for several years before I asked her to take over the role of Awards Chair this year, when we had a turn-over in officers due to a retirement. It was a last minute desperate plea from me, which Danielle accepted, even with an already full plate. Thanks Danielle!!

Audrey Jones
YSS Chair
Des Moines Public Library

Still not convinced?

Ask one of the current or previous chairs about their service to the Youth Services Subdivision!

MOVING FROM SUMMER TO...SCHOOL?

It's that time of year again—time to transition from a summer so full that there's no time to look past tomorrow and into the school year, where most days are more laid back...well, unless it's 3:30 in the afternoon! Every year is different; new kids move up and old regulars move on. What went like gangbusters last year might flop this year, but you try it again, or you try something entirely new, always knowing and accepting that it might be a total failure.

Here in Council Bluffs, we've finally got our teen area really off the ground. We're used to the traffic flow and we've got lots of regulars, but that doesn't make life here any more predictable. This year, a new endeavor is to add weekly after-school programming on Mondays when our main school district gets out early. There's no theme—just a regular time that will hopefully burn into the brains of the teens as deeply as my weekly video gaming program has. Of course only time will tell if the teens here in droves on Monday afternoons are the type who will come willingly to a program, but we're going to give it a shot, because even in the relatively short time I've been in this job, I've become a master coercer!

In addition, since we're on solid ground with services in the building, I'm working on beefing up my outreach efforts so we can have a great community presence outside the building as well. We're working on the traditional stuff like library card sign-ups, but I'm also developing a network for teen volunteers to keep them updated on opportunities in the community. It seems to me the library is a perfect and logical place to pull this kind of information together.

I've always loved the beginning of the school year—all that's in front of you is potential. Turns out it still feels the same way, even as a grown-up!

Anna Hartmann
YSS Secretary
Council Bluffs Public Library

CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEWSLETTER

The Youth Services Subdivision is looking for a few good programs...to put in the newsletter every quarter. If you have a program or event you are particularly proud of...let us know! We'll put an article in the newsletter to share with the YSS membership.

We want to hear from you!



PUPPET IDOL

One special program for school-aged kids that's worked well at the Ames Public Library is a "Puppet Idol" performance where kids have puppets lip-synch and dance to a favorite song. The first section of the program is dedicated to preparation by the students and the second section is the performance, which is open to everyone.

We begin by explaining to the students about lip-synching and performing with puppets and show an example of how to keep a puppet in view but keep yourself hidden behind a table, as well as how to move the puppet's mouth in time with the music.

Next, kids choose a puppet and give it some bling—making clothes, capes, glasses, wands, hair, or whatever props they want to, using fabric, pipe cleaners, ribbon, and other supplies. Working alone or in teams of 2-3, they then choose a song (they can bring their own or choose from the library's collection) and choreograph their performance. Some puppets just "sing" while others act out the words to the song.

After each performance, the puppet judges (such as Koala Abdul and Simon Sea Turtle) make encouraging remarks on the performance and then introduce the next performer (both puppet and person) and song. At the very end of the program, all people and puppets take a group bow.



Some technical details:

- * We limited participation to kids in 2nd grade and up and that worked well. (Younger kids have a hard time with the self-directed nature of the program.)
- * To add some sparkle, we created a stage area in our auditorium with table skirts, streamers, stars, and a special Puppet Idol poster.
- * During the preparation time, we had stations set up for a puppet decoration and stations with CDs and CD players for practicing. We used that time to write out the order of the performances and make sure each CD was marked with the desired track.
- * We had 4 teen volunteers when we first did this in Summer 2009, so we had a full complement of helpers and puppet judges. When we did this again in September 2010 as an after-school program, we had one volunteer who served as judge and announcer; the staff person ran the music and organized the program, which worked reasonably well. One trick for moving the program along is to fade the music out after 1 minute or so, especially if you can see the kids' arms getting tired or a puppet fight is emerging.

Lastly, credit for this idea is due to Amy Commers (now of South St. Paul, Minnesota), who brought it to us from the Ridgedale Library in Hennepin County, Minnesota.

Anastasia Tuckness
Youth Services Library Assistant
Ames Public Library

State Library Update

The State Library of Iowa is now Iowa Library Services/State Library. We have six new district offices, each with a consultant and a library resources technician. Two of our new consultants are former children's librarians! Here are the new districts and staff:

Northeast (Waterloo): (866-642-7919)	Eunice Riesberg, Consultant Kelli Bremer, LRT
North Central (Algona): 866-642-7918	Jet Kofoot, Consultant Trisha Hicks, LRT
Northwest (Sioux City): 866-642-7920	Bonnie McKewon, Consultant Janie Beaulieu, LRT
Southwest (Council Bluffs): 866-642-7922	Karen burns, Consultant Sue Gruber, LRT
Central (Ankeny): 866-642-7917	Maryann Mori (Consultant and former children's librarian) Doreen Buls, LRT
Southeast (Coralville): 866-642-7921	Becky Heil (Consultant and former children's librarian) Debbie Crane, LRT

Another change on the horizon is that we have reformed two youth services advisory councils—one for children's services librarians, one for teens' services librarians. Members of the councils are:

Children's Services Librarians' Advisory Council	Teens' Services Advisory Council
Central Zachary Stier, Bondurant Community Library Suzy Piel, Clive Public Library	Central Karen Neal, Drake Community Library (Grinnell) Ash Ansah, Des Moines Public Library
North Central Theresa J. Snyder, Garner Public Library To be appointed	North Central Sarah Day, Alden Public Library To be appointed
Northeast Kelly Stern, Cedar Falls and Waterloo Public Libraries Cathy Shaw, Edgewood Public Library	Northeast Heather Bente, Waterville Public Library Maddie Armstrong, Cedar Rapids Public Library
Northwest Rachel Loutsch, Sibley Public Library Sarah Beth Beaver, Spencer Public Library	Northwest Sarah Weiss, Pomeroy Public Library To be appointed
Southeast Andrew Frisbie, North Liberty Community Library Tami Finley, Bettendorf Public Library	Southeast Janette McMahon, West Liberty Public Library Samantha Helmick, Burlington Public Library
Southwest Two positions to be appointed	Southwest Anna Hartmann, Council Bluffs Public Library To be appointed

Terms (which will initially be rolling and will be comprised of one-, two- and three-year terms, eventually resulting in three-year appointments). Meeting dates and agenda topics will be set by early October.

Our workshops for the 2012 Summer Library Reading Program will begin on October 25. Our presenters this year are Jerri Heid and Val Donnell, both of the Ames Public Library. We are planning excellent workshops, and we have two outstanding presenters. We hope that many of you will be joining us for the workshops. To register, please go to the Iowa Library Services/State Library's continuing education catalog at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/>. I also hope to see many of you at the Iowa Library Association's annual conference.

Merri M. Monks
Youth Services Consultant
Iowa Library Services/State Library