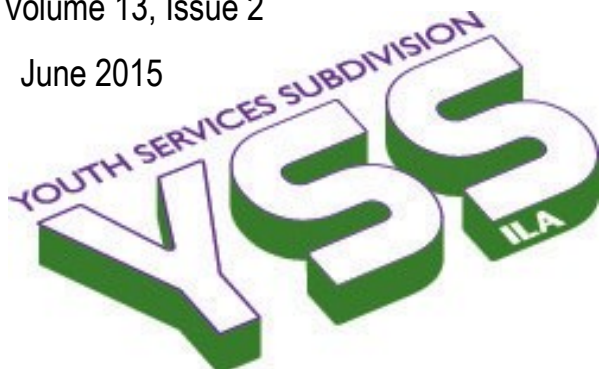


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Youth Services Subdivision

Iowa Library Association

Message From Your Chair

Greetings!

First, let me say that the Kids First Conference was fantastic! I hope you were able to attend all or at least part of the conference. Merri did an excellent job of arranging all of our speakers and breakout sessions. I can't thank her and the Teen and Children's Advisory Councils enough for all their work. I hope that if you couldn't make it this year, we will see you in 2017!

I can't wait to see how everybody's summer reading programs go. Some of you may have already started and some of you may have yet to start. No matter where you are I hope that you have a great summer! If you do something new and exciting, make sure to send in pictures so it can be included in the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing everyone at ILA in October. Merri and I have been working at providing sessions that will be of interest to you. Stop by our YSS booth, too!

Until next time,
Angie Pilkington

YSS Chair

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Programming Ideas

Cathy's Corner: Original Local Channel Programming

From Cathy Van Maanen, Huxley Public Library

Over a year ago, our local phone/cable TV co-op, Huxley Communications, started a project to produce original programming for their own station. Like many communities, there is a local channel for school and community events, but they had a vision to expand into a second channel. They approached me at the library to help produce a program for children.

Being a slightly crazy program coordinator/children's librarian with a theater background...I said YES! We debut next week* with one program airing daily for a week. The very first show we did was just short of 15 minutes, but we are working our way up to a goal of 1/2 hour episodes. Sometimes there is a craft involved, we always share books from the library on whatever subject we're talking about, and we 'go remote' to visit someone, or a place that relates. For example, we've visited a local family that raises chickens; the fire station; Camp Dodge; Iowa Storm Chasers Network; a service dog training center; the school bus barn; a horse farm; bike and water/swimming safety. We've also conducted an interview with a veteran for Memorial Day, with a world traveler (Dean Jacobs), and the local hardware store and greenhouse.

So bottom line, we want to produce a show that highlights and promotes the library. Check out books and learn more! And we want to share what's going on in our community and introduce kids to new places, new people, and new ideas. There is zero cost to the library and we try to accomplish the work during my work hours. It's a challenge to keep up, but I'm trying not to abuse myself and work overtime on this for no pay. When we work in the library there is the possibility of interruption, but so far it hasn't been unmanageable. Mike Leeds at Huxcomm TV is the director, producer, and editor extraordinaire.

*Week of May 20, 2015

Letter From Merri Monks

Greetings, YSS members! As your past chair, I'm now serving as the YSS Awards Chair and hopefully, helping your new chair, Angie Pilkington, take the reins of YSS.

With my Iowa Library Services/State Library youth services consultant hat on, I'm working with Rick Brammer on the fall Performers' Showcases (well, Rick actually does the work—I film the results of the work and handle the registration so attendees can get their continuing education credits). The Showcases will be in September this year—we're hoping to avoid weather issues that hit us even relatively early in November last year. Dates and locations are:

September 23	Sioux Center Public Library
September 24	Atlantic (location to be announced)
September 25	Iowa City (location to be announced)

The Iowa Library Association's annual conference will be October 14-16 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines—the same lovely hotel and conference center in which we had Kids First. YSS will have a booth in the exhibit hall, so be sure to stop by—we'll have the 2016 CSLP posters on display.

And the next big youth services event after the ILA conference will be the summer library program workshops, the last week in October and the first week in November. Workshop presenters will be YSS chair-elect Erin Silva, children's librarian at the Kalona Public Library, and Molly Garrett, teen librarian at the Cedar Rapids Public Library. The workshops will feature the overall theme of Wellness, Fitness and Sports (early literacy and children's slogan: On Your Mark, Get Set, Read; teen slogan: Get in the Game: Read; adult slogan: Exercise Your Mind – Read).

I hope to visit some of your libraries this summer—have great summer reading programs, and I hope to see many of you at the Performers' Showcases, the ILA conference, and at the 2016 summer library program workshops.

Merri M. Monks
Youth Services Consultant

Getting to Know: Kilie Steel – Oskaloosa Public Library

How long have you worked in youth services?

I've worked at this library for three years, but I've been in this position as Youth Librarian since May 2014.



Did you come to the library from another profession? If so, what was your previous career?

I worked here while I was a student at William Penn University, and I never left!

What inspired you to work in a library?

I've always enjoyed reading. I've been a voracious reader all my life. I pondered many career paths involving writing and books before it dawned on me. I should be a librarian! I love working with the public of all ages, and there's nothing better than giving suggestions about what book a patron should read next.

What has been your biggest surprise about working in a public library or with kids?

Not all kids that come to programs like to read! Haha! But seriously, you would be surprised by the amount of kids that come because "mom made them" or they just wanted the food. So I consider it a challenge to find something to read just for them! There's a book out there for everyone. But not everyone is willing to do the dirty work to find it. That's where we as librarians come into play.

What do you like best about your profession?

I love it when kids start to learn my name and recognize me outside of the library, or even when they visit and see me walking around while I work. And the hugs are great, let me tell you. I also adore it when kids start talking about something they enjoy and I mention we have books about that topic. Their eyes get huge and they say, "Really?" like they just can't believe it!

Kindle or paperback?

Someday I'd love to have a Kindle Paperwhite, but for now, paperbacks will do!

Who is your favorite author?

I have two, actually: Garth Nix and Sarah J. Maas.

If you could become a character in a book, who would you choose to be?

I think I would like to be Lirael from the Abhorsen Chronicles by Garth Nix. She's a librarian who can banish the dead! Not only that, she's super tough, despite being self-conscious at first. She reminds me a lot of myself.

If you get a chance to read for fun, what do you like to read?

I really enjoy YA fantasy/sci-fi. I've also recently gotten into the military sci-fi titles that have a female lead. Those women kick some serious butt! Comics and graphic novels are also something that I love to read.

If you could have an ideal children's department, what would it include?

I think my ideal department would have lots of windows and natural sunlight. (We are on the basement level currently). There would be a nice space for kids to sit and do homework, use the Wi-Fi, or just to sit and read a book. I'd also really love to have a baby-friendly area to go along with our toy area. I'm really trying to work on getting people to come to our baby storytime, and I think having an area for them to go with their small ones and not feel like there's a ton of noise or older kids running around is important to them. If there's a space just for them, they will feel more inclined to stay and feel welcome and comfortable.

I'm very happy with our current shelving. We've recently updated our paperbacks and board books to browsing bins and I'll never look back! Color and decoration are also really important to me in a children's department. The kids should see the area and know that this is where they belong. This is their space to be kids.





Iowa Library Association

<http://www.iowalibraryassociation.org/index.php/youth-services-subdivision>

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Other News:

June is GLBT Book Month™ - GLBT Book Month is a nationwide celebration of the authors and their works that reflect the reality of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience. In the early 1990s The Publishing Triangle established June as National Lesbian and Gay Book Month. This year will be the first GLBT Book Month™ to be held under ALA's auspices. June was selected to honor the anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Riot in New York City. This riot energized the gay pride movement in the US.

For more events, see the following website:
<http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks>

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2015 ILA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 14-16, 2015 - HOLIDAY INN
DES MOINES AIRPORT - DES MOINES, IA

Editor's Note:

I know that all of you are really, really busy with Summer Reading Amazingness, but if you could jot down any wonderful experiences, anecdotes or thoughts about your summer I would love to include them in the fall newsletter. Thank you!

