



Taking Risks in Teen Services

YALSA E-chat, Aug. 5, 2009

Linda Braun: Connie Urquhart & I are going to co-facilitate this discussion

Connie Urquhart: Hi

Linda Braun: And we hope that it's a conversation about risk in teen services and a chance for you to ask questions and also get ideas.

So, the first thing I thought we would start with is to ask if you know someone in the library world - that works with teens or not - that you see as a risk taker

Anyone?

Angelina Manfredi: Me!

Linda Braun: Angie tell us more. do u see yourself as a risktaker

Sophie Brookover: Hi, everyone! I'm keen to hear what Angie has to say.

Angelina Manfredi: Well, not me! :) But definitely my direct supervisor, her name is Bernadine Goldman, anyway, she inspires me to be a risk-taker...

Connie Urquhart: And for those of you who may not see yourselves as risk-takers, what are risky things that other people do?

Sophie Brookover: what does she do?

Angelina Manfredi: her motto for change is "what's the worst that can happen?" which I think is an EXCITING way to approach things.

Sophie Brookover: It is!

Linda Braun: Yes, I sometimes say it's not a nuclear power plant

Sophie Brookover: I like that it is positive & light-hearted, but also provides room for serious reflection.

Sara Ravid: Is it worth breaking things down into *types* of risks?

Angelina Manfredi: haha, she says, "no babies are going to die."

Linda Braun: Exactly Angie. I think types of risks are good

Sophie Brookover: I think things are a little higher stakes for me now w/r/t risk in a school library than they were in a public library setting.

Linda Braun: How so Sophie

Sara Ryan: @Sophie what with in loco parentis?

Sophie Brookover: Definitely b/c of in loco parentis.

Connie Urquhart: @Sophie or who you have to answer to?

Alexandra Moazeni: we have to answer to very involved parents at my high school

Sophie Brookover: Every day, I feel the weight of the responsibility. In a good way, usually, but it also has the effect of making me check some behavior that would have been fine in the PL.

Connie Urquhart: Does that influence your decision making?

Wendy Stephens: Up until now, we have had Island Trees vs Pico, but...

Sophie Brookover: Not in terms of collection development, but in terms of how informal I am with students.

Alexandra Moazeni: but that hasn't stopped us from doing what we want, and buying the books we think our kids will love

Sophie Brookover: And in terms of relationships w/them outside of school, too. Lots of my students want to be friends w/me on Facebook. I am not comfortable with that.

Wendy Stephens: I am a little concerned that the Miami case will be a challenge to school library collections

Sophie Brookover: Wendy, I'm not familiar w/that case...can you talk about it a bit?

Sara Ravid: @sophie tell them "after you graduate"

Alexandra Moazeni: I guess it depends how "open" you are with your FB persona.

Wendy Stephens: Oh, Pico is the Supreme Court decision that holds school libraries are a laboratory for free speech

Sophie Brookover: Well, I thought that would be fine, but then this year I realized that class of 2009 kids are friends with 2010, 2011 students.

Wendy Stephens: So that made legal challenges to books in school collections difficult.

Sophie Brookover: I keep it pretty tame, since I figure anything I write online is something my Mom and/or future employers will see.

Linda Braun: So, the risk is overstepping "appropriate" boundaries?

Sara Ryan: But I think those boundaries are shifting so rapidly

Sara Ravid: There is also the reverse issue of being responsible for knowing things about the students since they may divulge there...

Alexandra Moazeni: I agree, Sophie

Sophie Brookover: Sara Ravid, YES.

Wendy Stephens: Now, that removal of that Vamos a Cuba book was upheld, and it could threaten the Pico case

Sophie Brookover: I said to one student, "okay, I have no problem with you seeing what I post. But do you really want ME to see your photos? Your drunken status updates? Really?" And he was like, "oh. No, not so much, Ms. B."

Sara Ravid: It is a good way to teach them about using levels of privacy, filter, etc. :)

Elizabeth Burns: sophie, in NJ, do the teacher disclosure rules apply to you?

Alexandra Moazeni: I keep warning kids to be discrete in FB, or at least use the privacy controls.

Sophie Brookover: Also, I'm friends on FB with some of my teaching colleagues. I want them to feel safe blowing off steam on my wall.

Elizabeth Burns: adults also need to know about levels of privacy, etc., not just teens

Angelina Manfredi: I have this problem with teen EMPLOYEES as well.

Connie Urquhart: Are any of you social networking friends with your teens? did the risk end well or not?

Alexandra Moazeni: I just became active on FB, and am a little cautious

Sophie Brookover: Elizabeth (I assume you're Liz Burns from NJ), what are the teacher disclosure rules?

Connie Urquhart: -OR- does anyone have separate professional/personal accounts?

Alexandra Moazeni: I've been giving my students my home email acct. to use over breaks, weekends, etc.

Sara Ryan: I'm "friends" with teens who are fans of my books, but as far as I know, no teens at our libraries have friended me

Alexandra Moazeni: No problems yet

Wendy Stephens: I am tweeps with some teens (personal account) and shelfari friends, but somehow fb seems different

Sara Ryan: no bad repercussions from fan friending, but I also keep things very tame

Elizabeth Burns: sophie, I'll find the link (yeah ala calls me elizabeth not liz lol)

Sophie Brookover: I have separate twitter accts for home & school, but I just un-protected my main twitter updates.

Elizabeth Burns: connie, i think separate accounts is a good idea. i only have one but don't friend etc kids now

Angelina Manfredi: I am FB friends with some teens, but I have them on lockdown. I have been considering separate accounts ... and wishing my library would allow us to have a FB.

Connie Urquhart: Liz et al: it's interesting to me because so much of our lives have been blurred between personal and professional.

Angelina Manfredi: this is a risk I am trying to get them to take!

Sara Ravid: areas of risk: libr/patron relationships, collection, programming, lesson planning/pedagogy, technology, space use, policies, advocacy

Sara Ryan: The thing that gets me about discussing risk is that we're so good at identifying risks, but not so good (I think) at figuring out when to take them

Linda Braun: I'm wondering how this fits with our role as a librarian serving teens

Sophie Brookover: I would love love LOVE to have a separate FB for my school library. Unfortunately, I think that would be a super-hard sell.

Linda Braun: And I think that that fits with what Sara Ryan just said

Sophie Brookover: I have a school library blog & twitter.

Linda Braun: Can we evaluate our risk taking by thinking about how and why we serve teens successfully

Judith Macaluso: I think a big risk is the teen librarian being so successful and bringing so many teens into the library BEFORE the staff is ready!

Sara Ravid: I also have middle school students. I would love to use FB with the HS students, but we currently have it blocked. There is no good way to unblock it and supervise the MS students enough...

Cindy Welch: Linda, could you say a bit more about your question?

Linda Braun: Thanks Cindy

Alexandra Moazeni: My most successful interactions with students is when I'm myself with them, instead of another adult.; But, I see this as somewhat risky.

Connie Urquhart: What about in-person communication with teens? What kind of risky conversations have you had?

Alexandra Moazeni: We have a Health Center, so some topics I just send their way-- better information.

Sarah Ludwig: teens here have talked to me about drinking

Sophie Brookover: Alexandra, I agree, that IS risky. But I think it can be a very healthy, productive sort of risk.

Sarah Ludwig: and that is always hard because I never know what to say. It's not like "please give me information". It's "I got drunk last weekend"

Sophie Brookover: I always try to ask myself "is this modeling a healthy non-parental adult relationship?" And if the answer is yes, then I continue.

Judith Macaluso: give them resources and hotlines

Sophie Brookover: Oh, dear, Sarah!

Alexandra Moazeni: Drinking/drugs are a hard discussion at my school

Sophie Brookover: Same here.

Linda Braun: Sophie, I think that's partly what I was trying to get at

Alexandra Moazeni: They seem so accepted

Sophie Brookover: But Judy, is the answer always "here are resources"? They may not want resources.

Elizabeth Burns: sophie, that's a good way to look at it

Sophie Brookover: They may honestly be bragging.

Alexandra Moazeni: even by the ex-hippie (berkeley) parents

Judith Macaluso: maybe

Angelina Manfredi: "I would like to check out this book (gay america by alsenas) but my dad will get mad if he sees it. what do you suggest?"

Sara Ryan: @Alexandra, that's interesting. It's risky to trust, and when we share ourselves, we're asking for the other person to trust us.

Sarah Ludwig: it's so hard to tell if they're reaching out or just talking

Sophie Brookover: Sarah, are you in a school or PL?

Sarah Ludwig: i am at a PL

Judith Macaluso: I think we have 2 vastly different things going on with the difference in public libraries vs school libraries

Sarah Ludwig: i was at a school before and that was easy :)

Sophie Brookover: Yeah, that's tough. Oh, for sure, Judy!

Sara Ravid: @Judy YES

Sophie Brookover: And although I was aware there was a difference, the degree of difference was not clear to me til I started working in a school. A whole other WORLD.

Judith Macaluso: we recently had a training on "Appropriate professional Behavior & response" for Teen Librarians

Sarah Ludwig: same for me, sophie, just in reverse

Sara Ryan: @judy and what kinds of behavior were defined as appropriate/inappropriate?

Elizabeth Burns: interesting training, judy! library school does not cover that

Sarah Ludwig: at the school i felt like i connected with teens more and had a vested interest in their well-being

Linda Braun: That's so interesting because I think Sarah is saying PL is harder than School but others are saying something else

Judith Macaluso: not divulging our personal information, not taking kids home

Sarah Ludwig: at the PL i feel like i have to keep myself at a distance. linda, i think at schools it is more clear-cut. there are rules for student behavior

Sara Ryan: i bet it has a lot to do with the size of your library/community on the public side

Sara Ravid: So at PL you are a "stranger" whereas at school you are their "educator"?

Judith Macaluso: The training was done by a professional from our Employee Assistance Program --it was very good and repeated for more staff

Sarah Ludwig: yes, you are definitely an educator at the school. i am still trying to figure out my role at the PL

Elizabeth Burns: sarah h, do you mean libraries are less clear about interaction?

Sarah Ludwig: sometimes i just feel like a service provider

Linda Braun: This is also making me think about support in risk-taking

Sarah Ludwig: yes, elizabeth, i would say so. i haven't gotten any guidance on this issue

Elizabeth Burns: ha i meant sarah l, sorry

Linda Braun: Does it feel like people are supported by colleagues/community in risk-taking?

Sarah Ludwig: except for "no one under 12 can be on their own"

Sophie Brookover: Sarah Ludwig is sharing my brain.

Linda Braun: Does that have an impact on how "safe" u feel?

Sarah Ludwig: nice, sophie! :)

Elizabeth Burns: i think there are really different types of "risk taking" so different types of support

Judith Macaluso: but how can we ever really do the very good work by the right resource/book at the right time if teens don't give us clues to their needs?

Sarah Ludwig: at the school i always felt backed up, here at the PL i feel like if i tried to talk to a kid about risky behaviors a parent might get pissed. and i'm not sure i would be supported

Sara Ravid: I'm agreeing with Liz

Elizabeth Burns: training like judy mentioned is good support for appropriate risk taking (ie don't drive teens home in your car)

Sarah Ludwig: brb -- there is a little kid in the teen room :)

Linda Braun: And going to what Liz said I wonder if we are more supported in certain types of risk taking than in others?

Connie Urquhart: Liz: I wonder if, beyond the legal stuff, that inhibits people from taking risks. Thoughts?

Elizabeth Burns: is it "risk" in programs? technology? collections? outreach?

Linda Braun: Yeah Liz and do we feel more comfortable for various reasons with collections maybe over technology

Elizabeth Burns: i'm the lawyer, the legal stuff is important (LOL)

Linda Braun: And why is that?

Elizabeth Burns: but i think there are people who aren't comfortable with risks in collections

Sophie Brookover: Liz, definitely.

Sara Ryan: with collections, we've been doing it longer

Elizabeth Burns: there are "edgy" books/glb/diverse books that some places don't embrace

Sara Ravid: Depends on community, as someone said a while back...

Sara Ryan: and there's all kinds of documents/cases to back us up

Sophie Brookover: True, but there are communities where risky collections are REALLY a big job-risking risk.

Elizabeth Burns: or skirt the issue by putting it in adult collection

Judith Macaluso: as a wise person once told me --individual challenges are the norm -- GROUPS challenging library materials is another thing

Elizabeth Burns: or silently remove books

Judith Macaluso: happens all the time --we wouldn't be doing our job if we didn't have something that offend someone

Sophie Brookover: Connie, regarding non-legal reasons people shy away from risk: fear of reprisals from coworkers is one.

Sara Ravid: risks in programming are that if it flops it will be a turn off to patrons, hurt image

Elizabeth Burns: and with technology, by the time people are comfortable with the risk the technology is so 2005

Sophie Brookover: Sara, absolutely. Hah!

Sara Ryan: are there any risks we think are *always* worth taking?

Sara Ravid: good point, Sophie

Sophie Brookover: True that.

Judith Macaluso: you are right LIZ!

Sara Ravid: (coworker relations) and yes to Liz as well

Linda Braun: But do we have to have flops in order to have successes - that sounds sort of sappy but how else do we know what works and doesn't work.

Sophie Brookover: Also, being low (wo)man on the totem pole can be an inhibitor.

Connie Urquhart: Sophie--yep. Which leads me to another question...if you see risk-takers as being rewarded or punished in your organization?

Judith Macaluso: bias/misunderstanding of teenagers is the BIGGEST challenge!!

Elizabeth Burns: have to have the support of people to fail

Sophie Brookover: Oh, I agree, Linda, but this is a profession where we allow perfection to get in the way of good (tm leslie burger)

Judith Macaluso: aren't we taking risks by being advocates for the unwelcome?

Elizabeth Burns: i mean, that if someone fails, it's accepted that not everything can be a success

Sophie Brookover: There also has to be a different definition of success for teen events/programs.

Elizabeth Burns: so it's not personal & used to stop future risks

Cindy Welch: Or if we fail we won't be allowed to try again?

Linda Braun: Absolutely Judy being a teen librarian is a risk.

Sophie Brookover: Children's programs are expected to have huge turnout.

Wendy Stephens: I definitely think supportive administration will help you be comfortable in taking risks

Sara Ravid: Linda, the problem is resources I think

Linda Braun: Sara what do u mean?

Sophie Brookover: A good director will understand that good turnout for a teen program is...5? 8 kids?

Judith Macaluso: and Mary K Chelton says "Face it --Teen Librarianship is POLITICAL!!"

Sara Ryan: too many sara(h)s! we should all use last names ;)

Linda Braun: OK Ravid, Ludwig, Ryan

Sara Ravid: (I go as SaRa in these situations :-))

Sophie Brookover: Ryan, that is exactly how the kids at my school address the teachers they like.

Linda Braun: Ravid I was wondering about the resources

Sara Ravid: but last names are fine

Judith Macaluso: I think with limited resources when you do have a supportive administration it impacts other departments and their resources --and boy that is RISKY!!

Linda Braun: It sounds so risky ;)

Sara Ravid: limited amount

Angelina Manfredi: yes, Sophie, exactly! taking risks is also speaking up to EXPLAIN this to a director. "well, see, this program is different than story hour, because..."

Judith Macaluso: budget I mean --when one area is growing it has to come from somewhere and it means LESS for other depts.

Sophie Brookover: Oh, I know what you mean, Judy Mac!

Sarah Ludwig: you can call me by my last name!

Sophie Brookover: See, Angie, that would not even feel like a risk to me.

Judith Macaluso: that's when the rubber hits the road

Sara Ravid: time, etc. if I tried a program and it didn't work, I worry about trying something similar as opposed to working on a different area

Elizabeth Burns: but i see what angie mean (I think) the risk can be championing a program

Sophie Brookover: Ravid, worry about trying something similar for fear that it wouldn't work either? And be seen as flogging a dead horse?

Elizabeth Burns: that isn't going to have tons of turnout but will have an impact (is that right?)

Sarah Ludwig: i'm glad you brought this up since i had to cancel a program today...no one registered

Sara Ryan: @angie i think that's where the colleague backup is crucial

Sophie Brookover: Oh, I see what Angie means, too. It just wouldn't feel risky to me -- other things feel more dangerous than that. If that makes sense.

Connie Urquhart: I think too that risk doesn't have to be this huge game-changer. What about something like letting teens use knives in a cooking program? Stuff like that?

Angelina Manfredi: haha, yes, me either, but! to some people that IS a risk, trying to make your case to admin, it can be ... daunting, I think.

Sara Ravid: @ sophie yeah, I have a program that I keep doing bc one grade loves it

Sara Ryan: i always encourage non-teen svcs staff to advocate for teens, too

Elizabeth Burns: i think what is risky can vary by area, librarian, library, teens, etc

Sara Ravid: what *feels* like a risk?

Sara Ryan: sometimes it's easier to hear

Judith Macaluso: I think we need to "wholesale" our services more....less "Boutique" -- meaning serving just a few!

Linda Braun: Ludwig does it seem like it was worth taking the risk to schedule that program even if it didn't pan out?

Sara Ravid: (agreeing with Liz)

Angelina Manfredi: trying to say, but no, really, we need to have Rainbow Boys and Boy Toy and Heather Corrina's SEX on our shelves.

Sarah Ludwig: linda, yes but i just have to admit that in this new program, planning anything feels risky

Cindy Welch: what about kinds of programs ... anyone done a faith/spirituality program?

Judith Macaluso: wicca?

Sara Ravid: to me, that hits church and state

Angelina Manfredi: I worried about having a program about Tibet because my town has a VERY LARGE Chinese population.

Sarah Ludwig: because when you start a teen program, you want to prove that it was worth it to have all these resources allocated for it

Cindy Welch: or even more mainstream stuff ... we tend to think about the edges don't we

Sara Ryan: @ludwig so part of that is about expanding the definition of "worth it" beyond raw numbers of attendees

Sophie Brookover: Ravid, yes, I probably would not do a faith/spirituality program.

Sarah Ludwig: and my program stats go by type of program so every month the gaming and viewing programs get way more ppl than the "book" programs, which i worry makes me look bad

Cindy Welch: my point being sometimes conservative is just as risky as edgy

Sarah Ludwig: like, 2 ppl come to the book group and 12 come to the gaming program

Linda Braun: @ ludwig @ryan so that gets back to getting admin 2 understand the risk taking

Sarah Ludwig: sara ryan, yes.

Linda Braun: value, and return on investment (to get all corporate)

Sara Ryan: we started tracking "teen mentoring" as a way to bring visibility to the informal (but super-important) relationship-building conversations we have with teens

Sara Ravid: @ryan: nice!

Linda Braun: Cindy would you say that our comfort levels with risk vary based on our own biases? I'm not sure I'm phrasing that right.

Connie Urquhart: @ryan Ooh that's interesting!

Sarah Ludwig: i think we have to focus on telling stories rather than numbers

Lisa Molinelli: What do you all consider "worth it" beyond raw numbers of attendees? How do we expand the definition?

Sara Ryan: @ludwig yes!

Lisa Molinelli: @ludwig, that sounds like a good way of expanding the def. :-)

Cindy Welch: and our histories and what we THINK the issues might be ...

Sarah Ludwig: i know that my admin is really impressed when teens create things

Linda Braun: What kind of stories? How something helped change/support teens in some way

Sarah Ludwig: so even if the numbers are low, if i can show them the graphic novel panels they made, that's great

Sophie Brookover: @ryan I really like that! How are you tracking it?

Sara Ravid: so a product

Linda Braun: outcomes?

Sarah Ludwig: i think that can help. even photos! photos of smiling teens are great

Sophie Brookover: Ravid, yes! Which is easier to do in a school setting, I think.

Sara Ravid: tangibles

Sophie Brookover: Smiling, reading teens!

Sara Ryan: @sophie we actually did an article about it for our state newsletter a while back...will see if i can dig it up

Connie Urquhart: Sometimes I'm surprised by my admin--what they have problems with and what they don't bat an eyelash at. anyone else?

Sara Ravid: @ludwig -- definite pictures!

Connie Urquhart: so sometimes it may be more about our perceived risk than actual risk

Sarah Ludwig: connie, yes

Sophie Brookover: connie, like what?

Sarah Ludwig: i don't really want to talk about it but YES

Sophie Brookover: (I agree, btw)

Wendy Stephens: Connie, I am surprised by parents in that way you explain -- could never anticipate their triggers

Sarah Ludwig: omg, wendy, me too

Connie Urquhart: They tend to fully support collection/website decisions but programs are a bit more monitored

Sara Ryan: @connie i think perceived risk is the crux of the issue. we are AWESOME at coming up with disaster scenarios. and yes, disaster scenarios happen, but...

Judith Macaluso: @RYAN --you nailed it

Connie Urquhart: @ryan yes!

Wendy Stephens: I had a parent upset because I took a group to see Elizabeth Von Arnim's Enchanted April. She was opposed to enchantment.

Sophie Brookover: @Wendy, did the parent not know that there is no witchcraft in that movie?

Connie Urquhart: my director has said: act first, ask questions later, but i'm not sure it applies to *everything*

Sarah Ludwig: @sara ryan sometimes i wish we were more prepared for disaster

Sara Ryan: @ludwig how so?

Linda Braun: So if we can never be sure what the trigger is going to be what does that mean for how we do make decisions and take risks?

Sarah Ludwig: like, we don't have a collection development policy

Elizabeth Burns: i think librarians aren't always trained enough so that is why there can be fear

Judith Macaluso: not good

Sophie Brookover: @Ludwig, eeeek!

Sara Ravid: respectfully :-) @linda

Wendy Stephens: I was not even aware of the the controversy until afterwards, but it would have taken very little research to figure out it wasn't *magical*

Cindy Welch: easy to fix, ludwig!

Elizabeth Burns: fear of unknown

Sarah Ludwig: cindy, yes, except we don't WANT one

Sophie Brookover: I wonder how many library schools require students to take management classes?

Cindy Welch: ah!

Sarah Ludwig: i feel like i should stop talking about this :)

Sara Ryan: @ludwig take the risk! ;)

Linda Braun: Liz I keep thinking risk and fear are intricately entwined

Sophie Brookover: Because I think a lot of the problems we are describing have to do with a lack of understanding between frontline & administrative staff.

Judith Macaluso: for librarians it is....sadly

Wendy Stephens: I felt very cozily protected by Pico versus Island Trees, but worry for the future

Sarah Ludwig: haha! if you saw some of the books on my shelves you would see what kind of risks i'm taking....and i live in fear!

Elizabeth Burns: i like the idea of the program judy mentioned earlier re staff training

Sarah Ludwig: @sophie yes, yes, yes

Elizabeth Burns: b/c once people have that training, it's easier to argue for the risks

Judith Macaluso: it was very worthwhile.....and we did scenarios

Linda Braun: Wend u have the support in some ways that people are hoping for but yet feel like it's short-lived - which is interesting - there's still always concern/fear/

Cindy Welch: anyone see teens doing advocacy as a way to lessen risk? or the opposite?

Wendy Stephens: How does something like Banned Books Week give us an opportunity to address these issues?

Sarah Ludwig: cindy what do you mean?

Elizabeth Burns: i think part of it is defining what IS the risk, what IS the fear so that it can be answered/addressed

Judith Macaluso: I've gotten used to the fear....

Wendy Stephens: I have a great administration at my school right now, too, but I know that is really unusual

Cindy Welch: if they're out there asking for things ... rather than us

Elizabeth Burns: so if the risk/fear is banned books, yes BBW/ teens help

Sarah Ludwig: OH, i see. i think it lessens risk, personally

Connie Urquhart: @Liz I think that's really the crux, but how do you tell what's fear and what's risk?

Elizabeth Burns: if the issue is proper support/response when teens share issues like drinking, different answer

Sophie Brookover: @Cindy, right, and saying, "here's how these materials XYZ have helped ME."

Sarah Ludwig: plus, it's just easy to be impressed by teens

Cindy Welch: yeah, or here are the programs or the people ...

Sarah Ludwig: like, when we advocate, we have that added layer of

Linda Braun: Do we need a checklist or something for evaluating risk and that "scientific" approach could help take some of the fear out of it?

Elizabeth Burns: and sometimes fear is a good thing, lol!

Sarah Ludwig: trying to convince the admins we know what we're talking about

Cindy Welch: amen, Liz

Sophie Brookover: regarding the fear/risk nexus -- Liz you took the words right out of my keyboard!

Sarah Ludwig: where as w/ teens, it's like, it's coming from them, so it HAS to be true

Sara Ryan: so training teens to be advocates is another piece of this

Sara Ravid: some situations it may be more risky for the teen to be doing the advocacy, though

Linda Braun: @ryan and the teen piece helps to tell the story right?

Sarah Ludwig: i think so. whenever i say "the TAB wants to do this" it seems to be ok

Sophie Brookover: Ludwig, exactly! Also, sadly, grown-ups notions of what teens do/say/think about are so low that those low expectations could work in our/the teens' favor.

Judith Macaluso: you are an optimist sophie!

Sarah Ludwig: @sophie yes, exactly

Angelina Manfredi: @Ryan, definitely, and I think we saw that to some degree w/ what happened in West Bend...

Connie Urquhart: What about teens taking risks? What role do we play in that?

Sarah Ludwig: oof, connie, it is stressful for me to think about that

Angelina Manfredi: when there were TEENS standing up for the books, I mean, it "plays" differently, at least to the community.

Judith Macaluso: adolescence is a risk every minute

Elizabeth Burns: it really depends on what the risk is

Sophie Brookover: Well, let's not romanticize it, either.

Judith Macaluso: oo funny ...

Sophie Brookover: Yes, it is a heady time, but it's not like every moment is full of drama. Many of them are, but not all. :-)

Wendy Stephens: I just work with a lot of teens who don't have support at home -- it could be risky to support them

Sarah Ludwig: i think that we support their risk-taking in lots of ways, but tend not to broadcast that

Sophie Brookover: I think we run the risk (no pun intended) of getting a little "ooh, aren't we awesome risk takers!" here, and that's the far end of the pendulum swing.

Cindy Welch: how do you mean, wendy?

Sarah Ludwig: or i should say *i* do

Elizabeth Burns: sophie, i think that just as "risk" shouldn't be seen as "always bad" it shouldn't be "always good"

Connie Urquhart: that's interesting Ludwig. i wonder if that's the majority.

Linda Braun: @ludwig so it becomes another form of risk sometimes to talk about how we support teen risk.

Wendy Stephens: Some kids live with friends, boyfriends, are basically emancipated. And I work with a lot of teen parents.

Sophie Brookover: Liz, exactly!

Connie Urquhart: And again, it's a matter of small v big risks.

Sarah Ludwig: yeah i have had so many "inappropriate" conversations with teens that i would NEVER broadcast. we have to make snap decisions all the time about what is ok to say and what isn't

Sophie Brookover: (I also don't think it's fair or realistic to romanticize teens & their experiences, either)

Connie Urquhart: it could be something as simple as supporting someone as they try Guitar Hero for the first time

Linda Braun: Liz so we have to be able to evaluate good from bad risk taking - being smart risk takers

Judith Macaluso: I think that teens that come to the library are teens that need the library --at least most of them --these are the kids whose lives are at-risk --no supports

Elizabeth Burns: linda, yes, with the right tools/ training/ support

Elizabeth Burns: judy i think all types of kids come to the library

Sophie Brookover: Ludwig, re: snap decisions, I know just what you mean.

Sara Ravid: @ludwig yup, snap decisions while multitasking

Linda Braun: so what would be useful in terms of training, support, etc. to be smart risk takers?

Sarah Ludwig: sara and sophie, yeah---it's hard

Linda Braun: Judy talked about PD. anything else?

Sophie Brookover: Linda, I really think that kind of training that Judy talked about is good. i would also like to see YALSA address this more broadly, perhaps w/the folks from the Search Institute.

Sarah Ludwig: i think some kind of toolkit

Elizabeth Burns: agreed re what judy said

Linda Braun: Do stories from each other help too?

Sarah Ludwig: like, how to talk to teens about certain issues. language you can use

Cindy Welch: it still comes back to education, too; not just training. keep telling the stories before the risks are taken

Sara Ravid: It seemed to me that Judy's training was more geared toward public library -
- what about school?

Sarah Ludwig: resources

Elizabeth Burns: also (depending on the risk of course) collection dev. resources; local
helplines other people in the community to work with or who are the real experts

Cindy Welch: more info = less fear/risk?

Sarah Ludwig: yes, stories help a lot

Linda Braun: Do we need a risk stories page on the YALSA wiki?

Connie Urquhart: The pre-conf at Annual this year is about risky conversations. Would
a training like Judy's be helpful?

Sara Ravid: @cindy -- yes! communication goes a really long way in mitigating

Sophie Brookover: I think we can use the Developmental Assets in a very clear way --
possibly in the context of a toolkit, or training to help people develop the habits of mind..

Sarah Ludwig: esp b/c usually we are all alone in the library

Sophie Brookover: ...needed to handle situations where you have to make those snap
decisions.

Sarah Ludwig: connie, YES

Judith Macaluso: the training made it VERY clear what librarians should NEVER do as
it would put the library at legal and moral liability --but there is so much GREY!

Sophie Brookover: @Ludwig, YES, especially in schools.

Sara Ravid: @sophie -- Beth G. did a workshop on that a few years back

Sophie Brookover: @Ravid, let's bring it back! I missed it!

Judith Macaluso: what was it?

Sara Ravid: looking up URL....

Sara Ryan: so, there are risks you can plan for (with selection policy, prepping
administrative staff for low attendance in teen programs, etc.)...

Sarah Ludwig: right sara ryan, and then there are those "oh crap" risks

Judith Macaluso: Planning, Training, Role Playing, Scripted answers --all help

Sarah Ludwig: the "what have i gotten myself into" risks

Linda Braun: @ryan right on the fly risk taking and deliberative risk taking

Sara Ravid: @ryan having good relationships with "stakeholders" as a pre-investment

Elizabeth Burns: i'd add mentors/ library buddy who you can bounce things off. someone you trust

Sarah Ludwig: elizabeth, yes, so much about this is connecting with others

Linda Braun: I think that's interesting to Liz - trust is a key in risk-taking. That can of course go a few different ways I think

Elizabeth Burns: often the ya librarian doesn't have that in their library

Sara Ravid: <http://www.metrowestce.org/Materials/ceteenbehavior04.html>

Sophie Brookover: also, working *with* administration -- to build that trust vertically, not just horizontally across the org chart.

thanks, @SaRa!

Elizabeth Burns: going to admin isn't necessary the right 'next step" but we do need someone to say "hey whatdya think..."

Sara Ravid: "Subduing The Swarm of Beasts: Teen Library Behavior 101"

Sarah Ludwig: ha! the swarm of beasts!

Sara Ravid: yeah, yeah :-) @ludwig

Sarah Ludwig: i would love to have a group of teen librarians i could chat with about this

Sara Ravid: @linda yes, I'd also add accidental

Linda Braun: a risk support group?

Sarah Ludwig: yeah! sara ravid i like it!

Sara Ravid: on the fly = comes up in regular day

Sophie Brookover: Oh, I didn't mean going straight to admin, more like learning how to see risk from different vantage points.

Sara Ryan: @linda maybe we need an anon @yalsasecrets on twitter ;) for those risks we don't want to share too much about

Elizabeth Burns: i know sophie we were cross posting :-)

Linda Braun: @ryan that could be interesting

Sarah Ludwig: sara ryan i actually think you're on to something

Sara Ravid: accidental = oops

Sarah Ludwig: i think we are often afraid of admitting stuff

Connie Urquhart: i LOVE @yalsasecrets!

Sara Ravid: @ludwig or are protective

Connie Urquhart: it's like postsecret

Sara Ryan: hopefully it would go better than @alasecrets did at annual...

Sophie Brookover: (checking to see if there is already @yalsasecrets on twitter)

Sarah Ludwig: it is hard to be a teen librarian and we don;t really talk about how it can suck sometimes, you know

Linda Braun: we could have risksecrets maybe

Sara Ravid: discreet naming

Sarah Ludwig: and i think it would be nice to be able to talk about how hard it can be without feeling like a bad librarian

Linda Braun: @ludwig that's a really good point

Elizabeth Burns: or someone else acting like you're bad librarian

Wendy Stephens: Excellent point, @ludwig

Sarah Ludwig: i don't want to end on that note but my library is closing so i have to go!

Connie Urquhart: @ludwig that's interesting and definitely useful

Sophie Brookover: both usernames are avail on twitter, btw

Linda Braun: sometimes it feels like it's bad work when actually it's just something that isn't working

Sarah Ludwig: oh, hey thanks guys! here i thought i was being all negative

Sophie Brookover: thank you @ludwig! Not at all!

Elizabeth Burns: sometimes people ask a question and the answers imply there is something wrong for asking it

Sara Ryan: here's the oyan review with the piece on teen mentoring:
http://data.memberclicks.com/site/ola/oyan_review_7-06.pdf

Wendy Stephens: Not one bit negative

Sarah Ludwig: bye everyone, so nice chatting with you all

Sara Ryan: it's called "it counts, but how do you count it?"

Sara Ravid: thanks @ludwig!

Linda Braun: by @ludwig

Wendy Stephens: night

Linda Braun: we are just about out of time

Elizabeth Burns: bye

Sara Ryan: bye @ludwig

Linda Braun: Any last thoughts? Questions? The transcript will be posted in the next day or so. Thanks everyone for joining us

Sara Ravid: Thank you! :)

Connie Urquhart: thanks everyone

Sara Ravid: 'night!

Linda Braun: Have good evenings.

Elizabeth Burns: see you all next month! I love this monthly chat!

Linda Braun: Thanks Liz, next month is Teen Read Week.

Alexandra Moazeni: sorry...family hour here is CA.

Linda Braun: See you all then.

Elizabeth Burns: bye!

Sara Ryan: bye all

Linda Braun: Bye

Sophie Brookover: bye!