



**Partial Transcript for Programming for Older Teens Chat
April 7, 2010**

Note: Due to Meebo restrictions, we are only able to offer a partial transcript. Our apologies.

Linda Braun: What was that Penny?

Penny Johnson: It was based on an episode of The Office. We had office chair relay, etc. I'd have to look up my notes, but it was awfully fun.

Penny Johnson: So, really, there is a plethora of ideas for OTYA activities. The challenge is how to reach that group, how do we find the time to do so, and who pays for it!!

Penny Johnson: Linda, can you enlighten us on why YALSA has taken an interest in this older group?

Linda Braun: Sure, Penny

Linda Braun: At Midwinter 2009 the Board discussed the topic of the age that we served in YALSA.

Mary: "who pays for it" is the tough part.

Linda Braun: There was conversation about both the lower end of the spectrum 12/13 and the upper end and we realized there was a dearth of activity and service to the upper end.

Penny Johnson: I agree, Mary (hello, by the way! good to "talk" to you!)

AlissaL: time is the toughest for me- I had some good ideas this spring. Wanted to do a Mad Hater tea party for the older group who are so into the new johnny depp, but just didn't have the time.

Linda Braun: The action we decided to take was to see if there were members interested in starting an interest group.

Linda Braun: That's where you came in Penny.

Penny Johnson: 😊

Penny Johnson: We have over 150 subscribers on the "Serving OTYA" listserv. And I've lost track of how many are in my database for the interest group. So obviously a lot of us are thinking about this!

Linda Braun: Since then I've discovered there is lots of interest in lots of different groups related to YALSA/ALA/etc. It really is a hot topic.

Linda Braun: I think it's also interesting to think about how we can have collaborations with other departments in public libraries

Linda Braun: Adult and teen services could work together to serve older teens/young adults

Linda Braun: That could help with the lack of time element. No?

Penny Johnson: Linda, do you find it is mostly teen librarians that are thinking about it, though? I know I am the biggest advocate in my building because I am the one who has built up a relationship with these teens.

BethGallaway: great partnership potential with academic libraries too

Linda Braun: I find it a mix. I've met some adult/reference staff who have become very interested in thinking about how to work with 20somethings.

Linda Braun: I also think a lot about how we "transfer" service from children's to young adult

AlissaL: the problem I would have with that is that there are no "adult service" staff who do programming at my library- so if someone is going to tackle it, it is going to be me.

Linda Braun: We might find similar ways to work with teen to adult

Penny Johnson: My director feels we should leave this sort of thing to academic libraries, but it seems those institutions have a different focus.

Marcy_V: they absolutely have a different focus at universities and not everyone goes on to college!

Penny Johnson: Marcy, good point!

AlissaL: that's so true Marcy- one of my most regular "older teens" graduated before I even met him, but still comes and reads the manga in the teen collection. He works full time, has no interest in pursuing higher education.

Linda Braun: And why not collaborate? We shouldn't have to do it alone and in the long run might have more support if don't do it alone.

Mary: It seems there should be programming for all ages though. After all we need to serve the public from birth to the grave, shouldn't we?

Penny Johnson: Well, I like the idea of being a pioneer. I'm sure a generation or two ago, the first librarians interested in creating programs focused on teens felt the same way: who's going to do it, and who's going to pay for it.

Linda Braun: Mary even womb to grave 😊

BethGallaway: 18-30 is the new underserved

Mary: True.

Linda Braun: Very true Beth.

Penny Johnson: Absolutely true, Beth!

AlissaL: seeing as how I am in the age range, I whole heartedly agree 😊

Penny Johnson: And they are such a vibrant generation, those millennials!!

Tiffany: Collaborating with the Adult Services when possible would create an easier transition for patrons too. They could build a connection with the adult staff without feeling abandoned by the YA staff

Linda Braun: That's what I was thinking Tiffany.

Marcy_V: great idea tiffany!!!

Linda Braun: And can help teen librarians inform adult librarians about the gr8ness that is teen!

Dawn Rutherford: I think another challenge is developmentally disabled young adults who want to attend teen programs, but are too old, and sometimes make younger kids uncomfortable.

Penny Johnson: Excellent point, Dawn.

Dawn Rutherford: I've run into this a few different times.

Linda Braun: Dawn, do u have suggestions for that group?

Linda Braun: should b 4 serving that group?

Penny Johnson: That might be a good talking point when trying to lobby for program funding, etc. Maybe even an opportunity to apply for a grant.

Linda Braun: Penny I think this whole topic is ripe for grant funding - particularly if collaborative throughout the lib and the community.

Dawn Rutherford: The best I've been able to do is convince them that now they are adults, and have outgrown the programs.

Penny Johnson: Wow! good thought!

Dawn Rutherford: But this doesn't always work.

Linda Braun: That's tough Dawn, I wonder if that's a topic for YALSA's serving teens w/special needs interest group?

Dawn Rutherford: Perhaps.

Mary: Getting the OTYA's to participate in the grant writing could help them develop skills for job hunting and getting into college too.

Marcy_V: thanks for the experience. good luck with your 18-30 programming! bye now

Linda Braun: Great idea Mary.

Penny Johnson: So, again, really, we should start with forming a TAB/YAB group.

Linda Braun: Penny would you maybe invite an adult librarian to participate in a YAB? Depends on where work perhaps?

Dawn Rutherford: Isn't OTYA redundant?

Penny Johnson: Oh yes, Dawn, again, what do we call this demographic???????

Penny Johnson: Linda, that would be a great idea, but I don't know who I would ask in my building.

Dawn Rutherford: I do agree that Teens should be 12-18, and YA 18-?? 24?

Penny Johnson: The adult department just has such a different focus.

Tiffany: If you don't already have an OTYA following, where would you suggest recruiting them for a YAB?

Penny Johnson: Young Adult 18-26, IMHO.

Dawn Rutherford: I would think just use people aging out of teen programs.

Dawn Rutherford: And or community college kids

Penny Johnson: Yes, teen graduates. Post signs all over town. Advertise on Facebook and Twitter. Older siblings of current teen patrons.

Tiffany: Good ideas, thank you

AlissaL: not just CC kids- any college in your community might have teens interested in doing something outside their campus

Tiffany: Thank you everyone for the great ideas, I have to go close now. Goodnight!

Linda Braun: Could you also tie this into volunteering initiatives in the community? Perhaps older teens and young adults are getting involved in those.

Dawn Rutherford: Notify local volunteer recruitment bbs and placdes like United way.

Dawn Rutherford: jinx!

Linda Braun: Dawn our brains our networked

Linda Braun: From coast to coast Braun and Rutherford 😊

Mary: And not all kids go straight to college after high school. Some take time off and take jobs but still need an outlet and a "safe" place to meet with friends.

Penny Johnson: From what I have observed about millennials, they would love to get involved in social events at any library. I think it would be easy to find a core group to begin.

Linda Braun: For those who don't have older teens/young adults in the library might be good to go out to where they are to get them involved - virtually places they hang out and physical too.

Penny Johnson: Has anyone tried Second Life to connect to older teens?

BethGallaway: that might be a question of Kelly Czarnecki

BethGallaway: for, not of 😊

Penny Johnson: Oh, before we end I wanted to recommend a presentation about Millennials in the library. <http://www.dupagepress.com/library-learning-network/millennials-in-the-library/>

Linda Braun: Penny, it's a bit of time away but there's going to be a program on this @ 2011 Annual Conference right?

Linda Braun: A YALSA sponsored program I should add, there might be others but I was thinking a YALSA one.

Penny Johnson: Yes! We just got approval for a panel discussion about serving OTYA. I'm gathering several experienced librarians who have successfully started programs for OTYA.

Mary: I work with Kelly C. I don't think she was doing much with Older Teens because our focus was on the 12-18's. Also she worked mostly in Teen SL and they age out there at 19.

Penny Johnson: And I'd be happy to host an informal gathering at Annual in DC to continue this conversation.

Linda Braun: That's great Penny, thanks.

Penny Johnson: But we just need to find a name for this demographic..... !!! 😊

Beth Gallaway: I was thinking of the transition to the Second Life Adult Grid, and that some teens came back as volunteers to mentor the younger teens on the Teen Grid

Dawn Rutherford: So if we did start calling 18-26 YAs, would we have to change the name of YALSA?

Penny Johnson: I will admit I've never entered Second Life (too busy with my first life!!) but I've wondered if a lot of teens and YA are there.

Dawn Rutherford: I don't think so.

Dawn Rutherford: None that I know are.

Linda Braun: Dawn that's definitely a question.

Penny Johnson: Yes, Dawn!! See what I mean about starting a revolution??? !!!

Dawn Rutherford: But maybe they don't leave the house?

AlissaL: I don't know any in SL either

Linda Braun: I know a few.

Dawn Rutherford: There is quite an expense isn't there? In equipment requirements if nothing else?

Penny Johnson: So, change YALSA to TYALSA????

Mary: We had a regular groups of teens visiting our island but our funding got pulled and IT wouldn't support access to SL anymore. Kelly may still be doing some things there but not as part of her job.

Jackie Parker: Teen-Lib

Linda Braun: That's a mouthfull

Penny Johnson: TYALA?

Dawn Rutherford: Teen Association for Library Services? TALS?

Linda Braun: Thanks for the chat Penny - I have to go. Thanks to everyone who participated too. Great topic and conversation.

Dawn Rutherford: TYALA begs the question if we would be changing the charge of our association.

Penny Johnson: My thought, too, Dawn. Revolution, I'm just sayin'

AlissaL: ALSTYA

AlissaL: though, it would probably have to be ALSTTYA (tweens, teens, and young adults)

Dawn Rutherford: Anyone in Seattle area? YALSA First Wednesday @ Time Out Burgers in Mountlake Terrace in 10 minutes!

Dawn Rutherford: I don't think we can focus well on ages 9-26.

Penny Johnson: Burgers!!!!!! Wow, I wish I could beam myself there! Have fun!

AlissaL: I was thinking more 11 and up

Dawn Rutherford: Actually their Greek food is to die for.

Dawn Rutherford: Greek Coffee Milkshake!!!!

Mary: Thanks for letting me participate. Hope to "talk" again sometime Penny.

Dawn Rutherford: Good night everyone.

AlissaL: goodnight

Penny Johnson: Yes, everyone, thanks for coming tonight! Let's continue this conversation! Find me on Facebook!

Penny Johnson: Bye!