



## **YALSA's Online Chat: The Economy and Teen Librarianship**

**June 9, 2009**

**Sarah Debraski:** Hello! This chat will begin in 10 minutes, at 8pm Eastern. Welcome and stay tuned.

**Sarah Debraski:** Good evening! Thank you for joining us tonight.

I am Sarah Debraski, President of YALSA and the purpose of tonight's chat is to have a conversation about the economy and its impact on library services to teens and teen librarians.

**Sarah Debraski:** I know many of us are impacted by the current state of the economy, or worried about its impact, and this is a chance to talk about that and share stories. I'm happy to field questions and listen to concerns.

**Cindy Welch:** Hi All; thanks for doing this, Sarah! A very timely topic.

**Sarah Debraski:** You're welcome Cindy.

I know so many members are concerned if not about the status of their jobs, certainly about funding for their libraries which impacts the types and levels of service they can reasonably provide.

**Cindy Welch:** And traditionally YA services are among the first to go. I hope this time we've made a better case for keeping them. :-)

**Sarah Debraski:** Sort of a last in, first out type of thing!

**Cindy Welch:** Yep.

**Sophie Brookover:** In my state, I am seeing school library services being cut left & right, as well.

**Sarah Debraski:** I think for sure that now there are many easy arguments to make when defending YA services. And I'll definitely put in a plug here for YALSA's white papers,

which are designed specifically to help people present certain arguments, such as the need for a YA librarian, to administrators.

**Elizabeth Saxton:** also, the economy has led to more stressed patrons of all ages and lots of potentially volatile situations in some areas

**Sarah Debraski:** That is a really interesting point Elizabeth!

**Cindy Welch:** They're really useful; I hope folks will take advantage of them.

**Sarah Debraski:** There is definitely a greater volume of people in the library, greater demand for certain things, it's a stressful situation.

**Sophie Brookover:** Sarah, is there a handy link where we can find them?

**Cindy Welch:** Sophie - can you say more about the school media situation?

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**Sarah Debraski:** Sophie, I'll get the link here in a moment.

**Sophie Brookover:** Hi, Cindy -- yes, in some districts, retiring librarians are not being replaced.

**Sarah Flowers:** I saw an article in the San Jose Mercury News the other day on a subject I hadn't really thought about:

**Sarah Debraski:** And also take this opportunity to say that I'm typing as fast I can and will try to respond to things in order.

**Sarah Flowers:** teens are finding it hard to find jobs, because the adults are taking them.

**Cindy Welch:** Okay, that sounds like the situation here in Tennessee (Knoxville), too.

**Sarah Flowers:** I'm thinking that means more teens in the library.

**Sophie Brookover:** In others, SLMS are being cut to save money -- I read about a district today where all the SLMS are being laid off and the library is being staffed 2-3 hours 2-3 hours per day with \*lunch aides\*.

**Sarah Debraski:** That is definitely true Sarah. My own babysitters tell me they can't find summer jobs.

**Cindy Welch:** Yikes!

**Sophie Brookover:** It is horrifying.

**Sarah Debraski:** All the more reason to beef up our summer reading programs and volunteer opportunities

**Elizabeth Saxton:** we had a federal/state jobs program and they are overwhelmed with applicants, a lot of my teens are doing volunteer work

**Sophie Brookover:** I am in a fortunate situation, but it's definitely worrisome.

**Sarah Flowers:** Yes, I was thinking about volunteer work, too.

**Sophie Brookover:** And teens are competing with adults who've been laid off.

**Cindy Welch:** I heard about the job situation on the national news.

**Sarah Debraski:** That's true. A summer job fair at the library probably is not the way to go this year, instead libraries will need to find other ways to reach out to teens and help provide alternative solutions for structure and meaningful ways to spend time.

**Cindy Welch:** What was especially meaningful about that was that teens were getting the jobs to help support families. It wasn't even about movies or dates or technology.

**Linda Braun:** Here's a link to the white papers <http://tinyurl.com/nrjsu3>

**Sophie Brookover:** Thanks, Linda!

**Sarah Debraski:** Thanks Linda! What other impacts are people seeing at their libraries?

**Wendy Stephens:** We've already been told we don't have a school library materials budget for next year.

**Sophie Brookover:** Wendy, are you at a PL or SL?

**Sarah Debraski:** Wow, Wendy. does that mean not a single new item??

**Elizabeth Saxton:** materials was cut, and will be cut more. Luckily our collection manager won't cut YA any more than he has to ;-)

**Wendy Stephens:** School library. I have some money squirreled away -- all the donations and fine money

**Carlisle Webber:** My job was cut. Last day is Friday.

**Cindy Welch:** Oh Carly; I'm so sorry to hear that!

**Mary Hastler:** I'm so sorry Carlisle.

**Isabelle Fetherston:** In Pasco County, we are looking at major budget cuts - we may lose one or more branches. So far, we have cut hours....

**Elizabeth Saxton:** we have one teen librarian position out of 5 frozen, and many computer aides

**Sophie Brookover:** Wendy, that's awful. Carlie, you know my thoughts on your situation.

**Sarah Debraski:** Elizabeth does that mean no new hiring, or someone has lost their job?

**Isabelle Fetherston:** As a result, we have been told that after August, we will not be able to have any after hours programs - like teen dances or video game nights.

**Sarah Debraski:** Either way these are all terribly unfortunate.

**Mary Hastler:** It is heartbreaking.

**Elizabeth Saxton:** no new hiring, she actually became a branch manager, two of our teen LA positions, one at one of our highest YA circ branches are frozen as well

**Carlisle Webber:** As far as I can tell, I'm the only one in my library system who has actually lost a job, but no one is hiring, either.

**Sarah Debraski:** Isabelle that is such a shame given that your events were probably a great FREE thing for teens to do!

**Carlisle Webber:** Out of our 75 member libraries, only 2 have cut hours. So far.

**Cindy Welch:** I was in Virginia Beach VA over the weekend for a program and they have 4 open positions - but they're at the entry level. Still.

**Elizabeth Saxton:** we are a bit better off because we have a local levy that passed, but I think we will be cutting hours. The director still claims there won't be lay-offs

**Isabelle Fetherston:** Yes we have lots of teen activities - even all night teen lock-ins. We have been known for Battle of the Bands...

**Cindy Welch:** By "still" I mean that they're still able to fill them. Sorry!

**Sarah Debraski:** One thing I'd like to ask people to think about and respond to tonight, is what YALSA can do to help its members during this time?

**Isabelle Fetherston:** But we may not be able to get enough funds donated for next year.

**Wendy Stephens:** I saw our local PL had some branch manager spots, but the salaries were really low.

**Sarah Flowers:** One of the frustrating things is that the newest librarians are the ones who get cut, when often they are (like Carlie) among the most energetic and forward-thinking.

**Sophie Brookover:** One thing I'm wondering about is how much I can continue to be involved in YALSA w/out necessarily being able to get to conferences.

**Cindy Welch:** Too true, Sarah.

**Sophie Brookover:** I totally agree.

**Sarah Debraski:** Good question Sophie!

**Carlisle Webber:** aw, Sarah. But fwiw, I've been a librarian for 10 years.

**Sarah Debraski:** Many members have told me that they can no longer attend conference due to travel budget cuts. There are definitely other ways to be involved, though.

**Elizabeth Saxton:** Sarah, that's exactly what I'm worried about here. our new YS people are awesome

**Isabelle Fetherston:** Good point Sophie!

**Sophie Brookover:** My school won't pay for me to attend MW, and I can attend Annual, but we pay for it ourselves.

**Carlisle Webber:** And the cost of library school isn't going down anytime soon. I know I'm still buried in student loans.

**Sarah Debraski:** You could be a virtual member of a member group, including committees (which have a limited number of these) and interest and discussion groups (unlimited number). You could write articles for YAttitudes and YALS.

**Carlisle Webber:** But Sarah D., a lot of groups that people want to be involved in, like anything booklist-related, absolutely require attendance.

**Sarah Debraski:** You could participate in conversations on ALA Connect, like this one!

**Carlisle Webber:** Even a one-year committment, like the Printz, is THREE conferences.

**Sophie Brookover:** Yes, definitely, re: selection lists.

**Elizabeth Saxton:** I have a lot of collection issues in the realm of popular vs. quality books

**Sarah Debraski:** That's true Carlie, the selection committees DO require that attendance.

**Sophie Brookover:** Is there any chance they would loosen those requirements, given the financial situations many of us face?

**Sarah Debraski:** However, for someone who wants to be involved in selection something I'd recommend asking to be on a jury of some sort (those can have many virtual members and important and often overlooked)

**Beth Yoke:** Here's the page on YALSA's wiki, that lists ways to be involved, including virtually: [http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Get\\_Involved\\_in\\_YALSA](http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Get_Involved_in_YALSA)

**Sarah Debraski:** Or writing about literature on the YALSA Blog

**Gayle Keresev:** The Science Books Award Committee is all virtual.

**Carlisle Webber:** Here's something else we should all think about: Cut back on volunteering. Do outside work for pay only.

**Sarah Flowers:** Have we thought about a YALSA White Paper on the benefits of conferences, professional development, etc.?

**Elizabeth Saxton:** Carlie, can you elaborate?

**Sarah Debraski:** I believe there is information on our wiki (I'll look for it in a moment) about the very real benefits of participating in a volunteer organization.

**Gayle Keresev:** Full name of virtual committee is AAAS's Subaru/SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books for young adults. [*Ed. Note: The SB&F Prize is not affiliated with YALSA.*]

**Carlisle Webber:** Yes, I can. Here's the thing with reviewing, blogging, etc: We do it all for free. Few journals pay.

**Sarah Debraski:** One thing that I'm encouraging during these tough times is to not give up an association membership because it can specifically help you get your next job.

**Carlisle Webber:** And while those jobs are great for your resume, they are also time-consuming. How much time are we willing to spend on something that doesn't pay for our time?

**Elizabeth Saxton:** Oh, I see what you mean

**Sarah Debraski:** Networking and connections are a big reason many people join in the first place.

**Sophie Brookover:** Yes, I'm not considering dropping my memberships at all.

**Carlisle Webber:** Frankly, I think my time is worth a standard consulting fee.

**Sarah Debraski:** If I could circle back to the question about participation on committees, I can tell you that in July the Board will be considering a proposal for a new reading list that will have 100% virtual participation.

**Sophie Brookover:** But I am thinking hard about conference attendance, in part because school can't/won't spare me for the 3 or 4 days I'd be away for MW, unless I were on a major committee.

**Carlisle Webber:** I'm with Sophie. When I was out of work due to illness some years back, staying in the division really helped me keep up so I was ready to go back to work.

**Sophie Brookover:** wow. That's great news!

**Carlisle Webber:** That IS great.

**Sophie Brookover:** Can you tell us more about that?

**Elizabeth Saxton:** we have very limited reimbursement, more than 3 days is vacation time, and only people on committees and such were allowed to go. wow, Sarah, that's great

**Sarah Debraski:** (Selection and process committees do need to adhere to the ALA policy about no more than 1/3 virtual members). Linda and I have been working on the proposal for this new reading list. Linda, would you like to say a bit about it?

**Linda Braun:** We are in planning stages of course. But the idea is that we could create a list of books selected by librarians who vote virtually both on nominations and final selections. I think of it somewhat like the Webware 100.

**Sarah Debraski:** I'm pretty excited about this booklist for a couple reasons.

**Wendy Stephens:** I think a lot of members are looking for those type of participation opportunities

**Carlisle Webber:** What's the focus of this list?

**Sarah Debraski:** I love that it could involve so many people as well as the fact that I think the resulting list(s) would be useful, high quality, reflections of what YA librarians think are great books.

**Sarah Flowers:** ALA Council is talking about e-participation. There is still a lot of resistance, unfortunately.

**Carlisle Webber:** Yeah, well, ALA Council can pay for us to go to conferences, then.

**Sarah Flowers:** Exactly.

**Sarah Debraski:** If you want to read more about the proposal you can read it in the board documents for the Annual Conference.

**Mary Hastler:** I think the new list has a lot of potential and opportunity for our members.

**Sarah Debraski:** These will be located on the YALSA for members only portion of the website.

**Sophie Brookover:** great, thanks, Sarah!

**Sarah Debraski:** Sure.

**Linda Braun:** I also want to mention, that if we focus on projects like the list we are talking about and Discussion Groups and Interest Groups YALSA gets to involve a lot of people in a variety of projects that all should be member-driven.

**Mary Hastler:** We can keep working on big ALA's resistance!

**Sarah Debraski:** We've really got lots of people in the chatroom now, which is awesome.

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**Elizabeth Burns:** A.:Sarah, would comments from us supporting that list be of help for when its being considered?

**Sarah Debraski:** Liz, you are welcome to come to the Board meeting and speak when the proposal is discussed. The documents aren't up yet, but will be 2 weeks before the conference.

**Elizabeth Burns:** A.:thanks

**Sophie Brookover:** Speaking of ALA Council paying for us to attend conference, what kind of financial support does YALSA offer its members? I just saw some information on a stipend for the YA Lit conference, which is very exciting.

**Sarah Debraski:** Sophie, YALSA actually administers over \$35,000 in grants and awards each year. Yes, the stipend for the symposium is one of those. You can also get

money to attend conference for the first time (B&T grant), books and materials for your library (Great Books Giveaway) ... If you have a great literature program for teens you could win \$500 for yourself and \$500 for your library from the MAE Award for Best Literature Program for Teens.

There is a full list of the awards and grants here:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/awardsandgrants/yalsaawardsgrants.cfm>

**Paula Brehm-Heeger:** I have to give a shout out for the B & T grant which someone from my Library in Cinti just won this year - she's very excited. Thax 2 YALSA

**Sophie Brookover:** Can school librarians be eligible for the Great Books Giveaway? (I am thinking of my very ancient collection at school.)

**Sarah Debraski:** I'd like to ask the "audience" here again What can YALSA do for YOU to help you out? YES! Sophie, Schools are certainly eligible.

Liz, (and everyone else) if you can't get to the Board meeting you could send comments in support of the readers' choice book proposal to [yalsa@ala.org](mailto:yalsa@ala.org). Please put readers choice list in the subj. line.

**Elizabeth Burns:** Sarah, it is just such a scary time financially (but I just had my contract renewed, so ya for that)

**Sophie Brookover:** Sarah, did I miss the focus of the Readers' Choice list?

**Sarah Debraski:** The proposal asks for a list that covers a variety of categories. And by the way, you may recall the member survey last summer? This is one example of something in response to it. Members have repeatedly asked for more virtual opportunities.

**Linda Braun:** We are really taking to heart the comments about giving people that can't attend meetings and conferences a chance 2 be involved in selection lists.

**Isabelle Fetherston:** ALA connect is a great step forward for virtual networking and participation. I am glad it is also open to nonmembers as guests.

**Sarah Debraski:** By the way, for those of you have a story about the impact the economy is having on your YA services....

**Elizabeth Burns:** With librarian salaries being cut / freezing, is there any chance that ALA fees (membership, conference) will be cut / not increased over the coming year(s)?

**Sophie Brookover:** I really like this idea -- it was a good one before, and it's essential now. Even when the economy eventually bounces back, those lost positions won't return quickly

**Sarah Debraski:** I was contacted by someone working on an article for YALS about this topic. She has asked that if anyone would like to share their story with her that they email her directly and she'd love to hear from you. Her email is [cayar@evancedsolutions.com](mailto:cayar@evancedsolutions.com) and her name is Christine Ayar.

**Sarah Flowers:** Please do. The Fall issue of YALS will be focused on the economy. (Speaking now as YALS Editor!)

**Carlisle Webber:** Sophie, the thing I'm seeing in my library system is a shift in focus to technology, away from library services, at least where consulting is concerned.

**Elizabeth Saxton:** we'll have to fight for them all over again

**Sarah Debraski:** Liz, I think your question is one that a lot of people have on their minds. Let me answer in probably choppy bits here...

**Carlisle Webber:** I think, alas, there's a gap in what library directors want and what we want to provide.

**Wendy Stephens:** Even if there is an economic turn-around, it is going to take a long time to catch up. I think we just need to continue sharing information so that cutting databases, materials funding, staffing, whatever does not become the new normal.

**Sarah Debraski:** One thing to bear in mind is that YALSA only gets \$50 of your combined dues (ALA division). With that \$50 per person we are producing YALS, the blog, providing member services, the electronic discussion lists and so on.

**Paula Brehm-Heeger:** Is anyone here who has experience with previous SERIOUS economy problems? Any practice in the early 80s? I wonder what ALA did then?

**Sarah Debraski:** If that division membership were to be reduced, just like when the budget is cut at your library something would have to go.

**Linda Braun:** Wendy I think that's one of the important reasons I stay involved in ALA Divisions/YALSA The networking and opportunity to connect with others in similar situations is really helpful.

**Elizabeth Burns:** I am staying involved – My place of work is paying (For now) for conference but I pay for membership

**Sarah Debraski:** I also want to point out that people should make sure that they are paying the correct amount! I personally recently realized I was overpaying. ALA has a variety of categories, as does YALSA (student, retiree, etc.)

**Wendy Stephens:** I agree completely, Linda, especially for school librarians who work on their own

**Sophie Brookover:** Wendy, YES!

**Sarah Debraski:** Our fiscal officer, Mary Hastler is here. mary is there anything you would want to add to that?

**Elizabeth Burns:** Question is, convincing directors/managers that the networking (time plus out of office) brings them back value

**Sophie Brookover:** It is a totally different world, and I am the only youth advocate in a huge, huge school. I would actually like to see YALSA & AASL working together even more than they do now.

**Elizabeth Burns:** My current place of work values that, but other places, it can be an issue.

**Sophie Brookover:** Yes, you're one of the lucky ones -- gives me hope!

**Mary Hastler:** as an associate director who has just spent the last week and a half working side by side with a director who is passionate about ya services and we are working through a \$1.6 million cut (half was done unexpectedly by our county a week ago, we are looking at closing branches, layoffs, furloughs, and cuts in materials, etc.

**Elizabeth Saxton:** We have a new director, so are trying to "innovate" with no money for new people or services

**Mary Hastler:** The hardest part is that we are still committed to providing services to our teens while making bleak cuts.

**Sarah Debraski:** ooh, Mary I'm sorry to hear that. But delighted that you are still committed to teen services

**Sophie Brookover:** Mary, that is brutal.

**Mary Hastler:** it has been difficult to say the least but I'm a firm believer that we will get through it. I also think that when things get better, that we (wearing my FO hat now) need to be positioned to make sure that any cuts to YA services in schools or PL's are brought back immediately

**Carlisle Webber:** Beth, I'm seeing that too, the "more bricks, less straw" effect. I'm of two minds on it.

**Paula Brehm-Heeger:** Not always a question of more money but shifting resources. Just to go back to the point of why we want to make sure YA services stay on the radar as vital.

**Alissa Lauzon:** Beth- we have the same thing here... new Director, massive budget cuts, but the expectation to do more with less staff

**Carlisle Webber:** If we work hard to provide more with less, then are we showing the world that hey, we don't really need this money/these resources anyway?

**Sarah Debraski:** Excellent point Carlie!

**Mary Hastler:** Carlie, that is true so it is important that we structure it to make sure that message doesn't get through

**Sarah Debraski:** I have a friend in a private library who was laid off. They hired her back as a temp and I asked if it could become permanent and she said not likely since they could see that she didn't have a lot to do.

**Elizabeth Burns:** Carlie, that is my concern!

**Elizabeth Saxton:** yeah, well nobody would accuse me of being quiet in the process, the Main Library proposal includes an actual Teen Space

**Elizabeth Burns:** Plus as it is, I know people who work outside of the workweek

**Sophie Brookover:** mine, too. "Well, you did the same with less, so we'll just continue to give you less!"

**Elizabeth Burns:** and i'm very concerned when librarianship is only for those who can afford to work time beyond the workweek

**Carlisle Webber:** (which is why I'm also vigilant about teen librarians NOT serving tweens or twentysomethings, but that's a different discussion)

**Sarah Debraski:** My big worry is always that if volunteers are in positions where librarians usually are that then people will say "why not always have a free volunteer?"

**Mary Hastler:** and unfortunately we are really nice people and sometimes offer to take pay cuts, volunteer, etc.

**Sophie Brookover:** right, to keep the services going!

**Elizabeth Burns:** Sarah, yes! Once it's "train the volunteer" it then is "we need you for what?"

**Mary Hastler:** what is important is YALSA's advocacy toolkit in instances like this

**Carlisle Webber:** Mary, that's why we need to be less nice.

**Paula Brehm-Heeger:** Beth - that's right! Sometimes shifting resources can = improved services where it counts...though this isn't true in massive problems like Mary's example, of

**Linda Braun:** Perhaps one of the things YALSA can do is help provide more support on how to be a successful advocate for teen services for libraries

**Sarah Flowers:** This is where unions can help.

**Mary Hastler:** right with you!

**Elizabeth Burns:** Sarah, the people I know who were "encouraged" to work w/out it going on the books are in a union library

**Alissa Lauzon:** Sarah- my city's mayor seems to think that the entire library can be run by volunteers, it's really depressing. he doesn't use the library so he doesn't get it

**Sarah Debraski:** Wow, Alissa that is awful. I always think of that as a very "old fashioned" sentiment because in many ways we've been so successful at promoting ourselves,

**Mary Hastler:** Alissa...but maybe his wife/daughter, grandchildren do!

**Linda Braun:** We have to get our message across as much as knowing when not to wimp out.

**Elizabeth Saxton:** our mayor didn't think the library was "relevant" of course, he's famous for never leaving his office.....

**Sarah Debraski:** but it is clear that not everyone truly understands the value of libraries.

**Alissa Lauzon:** Mary- sadly, his wife does... doesn't seem to matter to him though

**Mary Hastler:** so true but we have lots of tools to help us get our message out

**Elizabeth Burns:** If we don't value ourselves (our money & resources) other people won't. If we say "volunteers can do this" by who who have in libraries, etc, of course mayors will think that

**Sarah Flowers:** I saw that Seattle PL is closing for a week--and shutting down the website too. It's one way to make an impact.

**Elizabeth Burns:** My place of work will be 10 days furloughed next year

**Sarah Debraski:** again, I want to point out our advocacy resources and white paper arguments.

**Sarah Debraski:** Shutting down the website??

**Alissa Lauzon:** we're closing our computer lab and children's room on a rotating basis if the current budget cuts go through... drastic, but we can't fully staff the library

**Mary Hastler:** Yes, our advocacy tools are really good resources

**Paula Brehm-Heeger:** I know that there is a evaluation of Library Science education going on w/in ALA, right?. Wonder if we don't need to ensure MLS includes more tech/hard science

**Sarah Debraski:** That certainly will be a wake up call to Seattleites.  
[http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Main\\_Page#Advocacy](http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Main_Page#Advocacy)

**Carlisle Webber:** I kind of love that Seattle is doing that.

**Linda Braun:** Are there other kinds of materials YALSA can make available to help in advocacy?

**Sarah Flowers:** I think it's brave.

**Sarah Debraski:** Here is a link to our advocacy resources:  
[http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Main\\_Page#Advocacy](http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Main_Page#Advocacy)

**Linda Braun:** Virtual training of some sort?

**Elizabeth Burns:** thanks, sarah for the link

**Linda Braun:** Stories you can tell to powers that be?

**Alissa Lauzon:** Linda- maybe mentors? A list of people who have successfully done it that would be willing to provide advice to you?

**Mary Hastler:** Our politicians really listen to regular people in the community.

**Sophie Brookover:** I have attended many talks on advocacy, but I've only ever been to one that was a workshop on How To Do It.

**Linda Braun:** Alissa and you might be able to test stuff out with your advocacy mentor Sort of role play.

**Alissa Lauzon:** yes!!! that would be great

**Sophie Brookover:** Linda, yes!

**Elizabeth Saxton:** Mentors would help, I don't know how YALSA can help, but one problem is how much of staff seems literally afraid of our teens because they only hear about the shootings etc. Maybe ways we can highlight positive teens.

**Sophie Brookover:** It would make a great eCourse for YALSA, actually.

**Paula Brehm-Heeger:** Linda - I think pointing out the tech role librarians play is always a winner with politicians/community members when we advocate.

**Sophie Brookover:** Maybe a joint e-course w/AASL?

**Linda Braun:** Def Paula and how we help teens in particular be safe and smart users of tech

**Elizabeth Burns:** the new jersey state library did a snapshot day (collecting stats), maybe YALSA could do something similar to use numbers to show impact? if that already exists, sorry for not knowing!

**Paula Brehm-Heeger:** Yes. That is huge, Linda! It also makes the case that libraries are more value-added than google

**Sarah Debraski:** Liz I thought the snapshot thing we did hear was great and would be awesome to see replicated on a larger scale.

**Elizabeth Burns:** and i think it helped when NJ had a threat of cutting library funding in 1/2

**Sarah Debraski:** Yes Paula, our whole Teen Tech Week message is pretty eye-opening to many people. I think sometimes because we are all actively involved in our profession and spend a lot of time with other actively involved people we tend to become less aware that there are still so many people out there who sincerely believe "everything is online so why do we need libraries?"

**Linda Braun:** BTW, did people see there is a new working group at the fed level about online safety

**Linda Braun:** We have to pay attention to that and maybe that's a way we can get the word out about how libs can help teens

**Paula Brehm-Heeger:** Maybe not the best time to pose the question, but also good to think about what we want libraries to look like on the other side of this economic downturn.

**Sarah Debraski:** Again, we need to educate and advocate

**Mary Hastler:** and also convey the "what's in it for them" message

**Sarah Flowers:** Always, Mary!

**Elizabeth Burns:** paula, i think "now that you can afford to buy your own books don't forget about the library"

**Carlisle Webber:** Let's talk about books, too. Teen books are one of the few (the only) realms of publishing where money is NOT being lost. Borders' YA profits were up 18% in...YA last quarter even WITHOUT The Sparkly Vampire Book.

**Mary Hastler:** thank heaven's for vampires!

**Elizabeth Saxton:** it always shocks me how many of my own colleagues are not up to date on how libraries are changing

**Alissa Lauzon:** Thank heavens for good quality YA books!

**Wendy Stephens:** And teens are so fickle, I worry if I don't have the latest books, they might never come back, an issue with no materials \$\$.

**Sarah Debraski:** Alissa mentioned advocacy mentors earlier and I wanted to point out that there is presently a mentoring taskforce at work on providing recommendations for an established mentoring program within YALSA.

**Alissa Lauzon:** Elizabeth- or how many refuse to change with the times!

**Carlisle Webber:** Quality is only part of the equation. YA is the new black for adult readers, too, Alissa.

**Elizabeth Saxton:** ha, I call it the time machine, because you can find someone stuck in almost any decade

**Alissa Lauzon:** LOL, we have one too

**Sophie Brookover:** Sarah, I think that's a great idea. I participated in the mentoring program (as a mentee)

**Sophie Brookover:** in 2004? 2005?

**Elizabeth Burns:** Wendy, i know , trying to sell them on "Old" books

**Sophie Brookover:** and it was very useful, but my mentor & I were very spotty about our conversations. I would like to see something more structured. And would be delighted to be a mentor.

**Wendy Stephens:** Yeah, didn't you send a message about Norma Klein? I love her books, but kids' won't touch them with a pole.

**Alissa Lauzon:** Sarah- I would love to see a more active mentoring program. I was a mentee a few years ago too and loved it

**Elizabeth Saxton:** branch budgets vs. the demand for manga is a big issue for us

**Linda Braun:** What do you mean by spotty Sophie

**Elizabeth Burns:** A.:Norma Klein needs new covers ala Sarah Dessens. I wish I had had a mentor!! Mentors are so important

**Sarah Debraski:** Sophie, I believe that is exactly the sort of thing the TF is looking into.

**Sophie Brookover:** Linda, I meant we would e-mail when we remembered to do so.

**Paula Brehm-Heeger:** The Board has sometimes discussed a "reverse" mentoring. I really like this thought for YALSA!

**Sarah Debraski:** btw, Norma Klein was my favorite YA author as a teen and even I admit her covers are, um, not hot.

**Sophie Brookover:** We didn't have a set schedule for phone conversations or e-mail conversations.or IM.

**Alissa Lauzon:** I had the same problem with my mentor too sophie... never really heard much from her after the first month or two... but she would always respond if asked smthg

**Sophie Brookover:** NJLA had a much more structured mentoring program, which I also participated in, and really benefited from. My mentor & I spoke on the phone every other week and e-mailed in between.

**Linda Braun:** That didn't work

**Sarah Debraski:** Be sure to check the Board documents to find out the update on this mentoring program.

**Linda Braun:** I think reverse mentoring could be a great way to get new members involved and invigorate some seasoned members.

**Sophie Brookover:** She was SUPER organized, but we also just followed the suggestions in the manual from NJLA.

**Sarah Debraski:** Although I certainly encourage people to take e-courses and the like, mentors during difficult economic times may be one way for people remain connected to someone who is also concerned about YA services, get sage advice, work things through.

We've got five minutes left in tonight's chat. Is there anything anyone would like covered that hasn't been? I have to say I've really been enjoying hearing from everyone!

**Elizabeth Saxton:** I could probably mentor a new person, but would love an administrative mentor to advise on that stuff

**Carlisle Webber:** Beth, word up!

**Linda Braun:** That's a great point that just because someone is a mentor doesn't mean they can't also be a mentee

**Sophie Brookover:** And I'd love a mentor who remains devoted to serving YAs while working in a school.

Right, definitely, Linda.

**Elizabeth Burns:** yes

**Sophie Brookover:** I worked with a mentor two years ago who was also being menteed/coached, himself.

**Wendy Stephens:** I also think we should talk with other divisions about cuts in consortial databases. In our state that affects academic & public libraries too

**Sophie Brookover:** It was a great arrangement -- lots of cross-pollination.

**Carlisle Webber:** A lot of what we need to know about library administration we don't learn and don't have the time to learn because we're, well, doing our jobs.

**Elizabeth Saxton:** exactly, we do frontlines well, move up and then things are less clear

**Mary Hastler:** yes and not a lot is covered in library school

**Carlisle Webber:** I know I've wished for a mentor many times, even years into the profession.

**Elizabeth Burns:** Carlie, me too!

**Paula Brehm-Heeger:** Being involved in YALSA and ALA leadership is a great way to learn more about admin. and management skills. I speak from experience on this.

**Mary Hastler:** absolutely, Paula

**Elizabeth Saxton:** I have good guidance for collections, but as far as say potentially running a department that's a whole other thing

**Carlisle Webber:** Paula, I'd love to, but I can't afford to travel to conferences and the membership fees. \*ducks\*

**Sarah Debraski:** Yes. A lot of times you need to think of your membership and participation as an investment into your career. There's an upfront cost to you, but hopefully it pays back in future job advancement and professional development.

**Carlisle Webber:** Beth makes a good point: It's often hard for teen librarians to move out of our positions because directors ask if we have supervisory experience and we have to say no, because we're the only one IN a department.

**Elizabeth Burns:** Sarah -- agreed. But also to have library management agree!

**Linda Braun:** And this also goes back to advocacy - advocating for yourself as a professional not just advocating for your library. Advocating for yourself as a leader too

**Elizabeth Saxton:** exactly Carlie, and in a union library you can't boss anyone around until you are a manager, but you can't be a manager without experience

**Sarah Debraski:** Great point Linda, and a great point to wrap up this e-chat on

**Carlisle Webber:** Which means demanding payment for the work you do outside your salaried job.

**Elizabeth Burns:** Linda, yes !

**Sophie Brookover:** Yes, Linda! Again, I think this is an area where many of us need help that YALSA can provide.

**Linda Braun:** And I wanted to mention that a transcript of the chat will also be available.

**Sarah Debraski:** I'd like to thank everyone for joining in tonight. This has been a lively and interesting discussion.

**Sophie Brookover:** Or at least provide a venue for us to provide it to each other. Yes, thanks, Sarah for hosting it!

**Linda Braun:** Thanks Sarah

**Elizabeth Burns:** Thanks, Sarah!

**Alissa Lauzon:** yes, thanks Sarah!

**Carlisle Webber:** Sarah, thanks for this opportunity to chat.

**Elizabeth Saxton:** thanks

**Wendy Stephens:** Thanks everyone, for the conversation and ideas.

**Paula Brehm-Heeger:** Thanks sarah and everyone!

**Isabelle Fetherston:** Thank you, Sarah!

**Sarah Debraski:** You are very welcome Sophie! I'm glad we had the opportunity. I know we can't solve the economic crisis, but since we're in it together it's great to share.

**Mary Hastler:** Thanks Sarah and everyone!

**Sarah Debraski:** Thanks and good night!