

**1. What Is Young Adult Literature? All books fiction and nonfiction published for** readers aged twelve to eighteen. This genre (a literary type or class) is often viewed as a bridge between children's literature and literature published for adults. Accordingly a library's collection of young adult materials may include both children's and young adult books. The point should be made, however, that today's young adult literature is a separate and individual body of published work

**2. Does Your Library Have a Separate YA Collection?**

- How do you define your audience?
- How do you involve the YAs in collection development?
- Have you conducted a reader interest survey? (See p. 107 in Patrick Jones's Connecting Young, Adults and Libraries)
- For what purpose(s) do YAs use your library's collections? Homework? Research? Pleasure reading? Information? Self improvement? How do your collections reflect this?
- Have you assessed the collections in your local school libraries? How much of your collection will provide curriculum support?

**3. Multiple Copies?**

Do you buy multiple copies of selected children's and adult books to include in this collection?

- ALEX Awards; adult "classic" lists; Outstanding Books for the College Bound
- ALSC's Notable Children's Book Lists
- Picture Books for YAs

**4. Fiction and Nonfiction?**

Does the collection include both fiction and non fiction or do you shelve YA nonfiction with adult? If so, is it labeled and is there a YA designation in the catalog?

**5. Paperbacks: Do you buy paperbacks?**

- Advantages: price (you can buy more and you can buy multiple copies of "hot" titles and you can meet fleeting demand; e.g., the Quick Pix '99 choice NSYNC The Official Book [though. Note this is a trade paperback at \$9.95])

**Young Adult Collection Development**

- Format popular with YAs, take less shelf space but you may have to buy special shelving, which can be expensive.
- Will you buy trade paperbacks? They will probably be intershelved with hardcovers, if you do.
- Will you buy paperback series? Note difficulties with bibliographic control but kids love them and, frankly, a paperback collection is inherently a browsing collection.
- If you buy paperbacks, don't waste a lot of time and money on full cataloging YALSA's Popular Paperbacks Lists
- Graphic Novels (see Understanding Comic by Scott McCloud [HarperPerennial, 1994] and "Graphic Novels" by Francesca Goldsmith, Booklist, 5/1/98, pp. 15 1011)

**6. Non Book Materials?**

- Magazines, Zines
- Videos, DVDs
- CDs and tapes (AND vinyl)
- Audio Books (see YALSA's Best Audio Books list)
- Internet sites (see YALSA's Teenhoopla site for sample mission statement and selection policy: [www.ala.org/teenhoopla/submitsmcr.html](http://www.ala.org/teenhoopla/submitsmcr.html))
- Also see TEENS.LIBRARY. Developing Internet Services for Young Adults by Linda W. Braun

**7. Balancing:** How do you balance the various elements of the collection?

- See "Setting Priorities" in Patrick Jone's Connecting Young Adults and Libraries (pp, 112-13)
- In some libraries fiction outnumbers nonfiction by 3:1

**8. NONFICTION:**

- Buy nonfiction for general reading and for report s/homework/research
- Golden age of trade nonfiction artistically written text, visual excellence

- Traditional curriculum related nonfiction less important than in past because of the Internet. Look at Chico High School's Library Helpful Bookmarks page: <http://dcwgy.chs.chico.k12.ca.us>
- The 300 and 600 Dewey areas are still important as are such subjects as rape, sexual harassment, drugs, domestic/family violence, teen pregnancy, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, gangs, ethnic conflict
- College and career information
- Health, exercise, diet, and beauty
- Biography and Autobiography
- Comics, comic art and graphic novels

## Young Adult Collection Development

- "Brand name" nonfiction authors: Rhoda Blumberg, Janet Bode, James Cross Giblin, James Haskins, Elaine Landau, Albert Marrin, Milton Meltzer
- Reliable nonfiction publishers: Chelsea House, The College Board, Enslow, Facts on File, Greenhaven, Lerner, Lucent, Millbrook, Peterson's, Rosen, VGM (note that many of these publish useful series)
- H.W. Wilson's Junior and Senior High School Library Catalog
- From Delight To Wisdom: Nonfiction for Young Adults by Betty Carter and Richard F. Abrahamson (Oryx Press 1990)
- Some points to consider:
  - Accuracy
  - Point of View
  - Does it fill a need?
  - How does it compare with other books on the same subject?
  - Style
  - Tone
  - Format
  - Organization

## 9. FICTION:

- Quality vs: Popularity
- Retrospective collection development? (Margaret A. Edwards Award)
- Paperback vs: Hardcover
- Are you developing a permanent or a popular reading collection?
- Some points to consider:
  - Plot
  - Characterization
  - Setting
  - Style
  - Mood and tone
  - Originality
  - Context
  - Audience
  - What do the kids look for?
  - Genre Fiction (see Diana Tixier Herald's Teen Genreflecting Libraries Unlimited 1997 and her website: <http://www.mancon.com/Aenre>)

## 10. REVIEW SOURCES and BEST BOOKS LISTS

Best Books for Young Adults: The History, The Selections, The Romance by Betty Carter. ALA, 1994)

## Young Adult Collection Development

- Visit YALSA's website for copies of the various "Best" lists: [www.ala.org/~yalsa/](http://www.ala.org/~yalsa/)

## 11. COLLECTION PROMOTION

- Programs
- Booktalking
- Teen Read Week

## 12. INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

- For essential Intellectual Freedom documents visit ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom website at <http://www.ala.org/oif>
- The following book is also recommended: Protecting the Right To Read: A How To Do It Manual for School and Public Librarians by Ann Symons and Charles Harmon (Neal Schuman)

## 13. REACHING RELUCTANT (AND NOT SO RELUCTANT) READERS:

- What do kids look for?
  - Attractive cover art
  - A Catchy Title

- An interesting blurb
- A hook (something must happen right away)
- Fast pace/few characters
- Single point of view and few flashbacks or subplots
- Real-life situations and high interest topics
- Emotional impact
- Short sentences and paragraphs
- The book must contain 200 pages or less