

Foreword

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Guest Editors

Young Adults...teenagers...adolescents...marginally civilized animals that will someday become human? To lots of people inside and outside the library world, they are very scary creatures. But to those who work closely with them, they are by turns stimulating, invigorating, amusing, exciting, and constantly challenging.

In this issue of *North Carolina Libraries*, you will read articles by some of the very special people who choose to work with this unique and demanding clientele. If you don't normally have much contact with YAs, you may also encounter some ideas that startle you, surprise you, or downright scare you. Good! That's what working with YAs, is all about. As Rebecca Taylor (yes, that's me) once said to a worried mother who couldn't understand why her gentle, intelligent, and inquisitive son would only read X-Men comic books and *Totally Gross Jokes*, "Calm down, stay cool, the job of adolescents is to drive adults nuts." I don't know if it did her any good, but it gave the library staff insight into why the local gang of after school eighth graders makes everyone from the security guard to the circulation staff crazy.

In the forefront of service to Young Adults are the Media Coordinators in North Carolina's middle and high schools. In this issue you will find a variety of topics addressed, including current audiovisual production technology in Augie Beasley's "From Opaque Projector to Camcorder." Michael Parrish and Wilma Bates's article on using cable news to enhance the curriculum in "Using Television News with Students" brings a fascinating new perspective to the term "current events." Joy Hoke admirably presents ideas for involving the media coordinator in school-wide management and curriculum support in her "Site-Based Management: Media Friend or Foe."

The realities of Young Adult services in the public library are addressed by Kathleen Wheelless and Elizabeth Skinner in "Developing and Maintaining Effective Public Library Service to Teens." Susan Bryson and Marilyn Shontz take a look at current perceptions and future possibilities in their survey report "Young Adult Services for the Year 2000."

In "Cooperation Between School and Public Libraries," doctoral student Donna Shannon brings school and public library together in her report on the working relationships that have been developed between these two institutions in one North Carolina county.

No discussion of Young Adult librarianship would be complete without addressing some specialized aspects of materials acquisition. In "Stalking the Elusive North Carolina Author," Jan Broadfoot presents some succinct and practical sources for librarians trying to identify North Carolina authors to meet both the

curriculum and personal reading needs of today's teenagers. Kathleen Mahood tackles the most asked for, and scariest, topic today in "Eye of Newt, Toe of Frog," that of witchcraft materials acquisition. We all learned the theoretical aspects of "equal access to information" in library school. Are we ready to stand up for a kid's right to information that is this fraught with negative connotations? If we aren't, where will they get the information they seek?

And, what happens when you find yourself out on that "censorship" limb? Amanda Bible tells us the humorous and heartening story of living with notoriety and a sometimes confused media in "Life After Wifey." The risk of a censorship case is only one issue that Joy Davis, Anthony Miller, and Harry Tuchmayer defuse in their "Point/Counter Point" on audiovisual collection building.

Finally, you will find two articles about North Carolina's unique and very special state-wide programs for Young Adults. Nancy Cashman writes about Quiz Bowl from the perspective of a three-year team member (and someone who actually survived adolescence) in "This is ...Quiz Bowl: My Beginnings as a Trivia Lover." Frances Mallison tells of her experiences as a first-year coach in "Battle of the Books: Middle School Reading Motivation."

A very special thanks goes to all the members of the NCLA/PLS/Young Adult Committee. They remain the standard bearers for Young Adult Services here in North Carolina. They've been a great help in suggesting articles for this issue. You'll see that three articles are a direct result of their input, while several others grew from their suggestions. Don't miss their publication *Grassroots*.

NCLA/PLS/YA Committee:

Chairman: Kathleen Wheelless, Forsyth County Public Library
Vice Chairman: Elizabeth Skinner, Forsyth County Public Library
Secretary: Adele Russell, Stanley County Public Library
Treasurer: Joyce Hamilton, Henderson County Public Library
Members: Susan Bryson, High Point Public Library, Jean Kiger, McGirt-Horton Branch Library, Kristine Mahood, Rowan Public Library, Lou Sanders, Southeast Branch Library, Cal Shepard, State Library of North Carolina

A very personal, and special thanks to our "mentors in YA Services," Dorothy Broderick and Mary K. Chelton. We studied them in Library School, learned to write by reviewing for VOYA, and found colleagues who are friends as well.

Pulling together the many diverse and exciting strands of service to young adults has been an invigorating experience. Much like adolescence, it has been an immense "opportunity for growth," but we sure don't want to do it again!