

Youth Services in Public Libraries Pathway

A specialization within the Master of Library and Information Science Program
St. Catherine University

Updated: Spring 2016

Introduction

Youth services in public libraries refers to the programming, reference and collection development tailored specifically to children and young people, as well as the adults who interact with them. Youth services librarians promote and nurture the habit of reading, evaluate and utilize print and electronic information sources used by children and young adults, collaborate with other educators, develop outreach programs for their service community, provide opportunities for parenting education and family literacy programs and design and present activities that help young people develop their creativity, interests and talents.

The Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/index.cfm>) and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/yalsa.cfm>), both divisions of the American Library Association, provide background information on this area of librarianship.

Competencies

The American Library Association recommends the following competencies for children's librarians:

- knowledge and understanding of the client group;
- administrative and management skills;
- communication skills;
- knowledge of children's and young adult materials and ability to select and provide appropriate materials;
- ability to create, promote and evaluate library and community programs;
- advocacy, public relations and networking skills;
- professional commitment and development.

A complete discussion of ALSC competencies is available:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/competencies.cfm>.

The American Library Association recommends the following competencies for young adult librarians:

- leadership and professionalism;
- knowledge of the client group;
- communication skills;
- administration and management skills;
- knowledge of materials;
- ability to provide access to information;
- ability to create, promote, evaluate and provide services.

A complete discussion of YALSA competencies is available:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/profdev/yacompetencies/competencies.cfm>

Courses

Core Requirements: (for students entering program after Spring 2015)

- LIS 7010 Introduction to Library and Information Science
- LIS 7030 Organization of Knowledge
- LIS 7040 Information Access Services
- LIS 7050 Research Methods
- LIS 7700 Management of Libraries and Information Centers

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- LIS 7700 Management of Libraries and Information Centers
- LIS 7790 Touchstone
- LIS 8990 Capstone

Highly Recommended Courses:

- LIS 7210 Library Materials for Children
- LIS 7220 Library Materials for Young Adults
- LIS 7230 Services for Children and Young Adults
- LIS 7530 Internet Fundamentals & Design
- LIS 7620 Literacy and Community Engagement
- LIS 7640 Library User Instruction
- LIS 7680 Libraries and Emerging Technologies
- LIS 7710 Public Libraries
- LIS 7993 Practicum

Alternative Courses:

- LIS 7480 Collection Management
- LIS 7970 Web Usability and Accessibility