

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Dallas
January 20 – 24, 2012

Topic: Awards & Selected List Evaluation Taskforce Final Report

Background: At the 2011 Midwinter Meeting the Board voted to establish a

Nonfiction: http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=NK_2bcyD3KA GxEVwqEw zH95TtPnn_2b37NI_2bDSoB8_2fKnQ_3d

Recommendations based on the Results of the Surveys

Alex

1. Keep the Alex Award selections to ten award winners and a list of vetted nominations.
2. Continue to find new ways to publicize the Alex Award, possibly by getting selectors of adult materials. Survey participants indicated that ordering books for the adult collection is not within their realm of responsibility, and that ordering second copies for the teen collection is costly.
3. Promote suggested uses for Alex Award winners, such as summer reading lists, café book clubs, or teen book reviews.

BFYA

1. The length of the list should be determined by the votes of the committee members and not by a predetermined number. In the same vein, there should be no attempt to “balance” the list by genre, age group or gender.
2. There was satisfaction with Alex and Excellence in Nonfiction as selectors of adult and nonfiction titles.
3. Suggestion that there be an equal number of first year and veteran members on the BFYA committee so mentoring can occur.

Nonfiction

1. There is an obvious need for an increased number of high quality nonfiction titles to serve teen readers.
 - a. Create procedures which clarify the nomination process in hopes of creating a broader, more robust vetted list which committee members would feel comfortable using.
 - b. Annually highlight nonfiction titles found in various award and selection lists, such as titles from Alex, Great Graphic Novels, Quick Picks, Popular Paperbacks, etc. to be used as a collection development and reader’s advisory tool in libraries.
 - c. A selection list similar to BFYA could also be created to highlight only nonfiction with teen appeal.

Comment from the Chair of the TF

At the moment I don't know whether there will be a formal request from the 2012 Nonfiction Chair or not, but having served on the committee while the evaluation was going on, I'm taking the prerogative of sharing a stumbling block we encountered this year –

Item #29

5. 85% of the respondents felt that YALSA's complete set of lists and awards provided all or most of their collection development and reader's advisory needs.
6. 23% of the respondents were not aware of YALSA's Best of the Best Lists.
7. 60% of the respondents were YALSA members while 40% were either not or not sure if they were members.
8. 83% of the respondents had never served on a YALSA list or award committee.

Conclusion

With 85% of the respondents feeling that the YALSA lists meet all or most of their collection development and reader's advisory needs, it would seem that no changes need to be made to the Alex, BFYA, and Nonfiction lists. It is to the credit of all committee members that 95% of the respondents stated that the lists range from good to excellent. YALSA members and nonmembers are least aware of the nonfiction list, but it is the newest and it will take time to build awareness.

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