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An Introduction from the Editor

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An Introduction from the Editor

*What did you wear on your first date?
Who was your favorite music group
when you were in high school?
What kinds of things were you reading?*

Do you remember your adolescent years with fondness or angst? Teenagers today are not so different from teenagers of every generation. They have hopes, dreams, goals, and desires to make the world a better place. They are growing up, searching for identity, excited and scared. They are also facing issues that many of us could never have expected.

Whether a public library, a school, college, university or special library, each of our libraries is growing up, searching for identity in this information explosion, and creating new goals every day. How we can meld the two, making our libraries comfortable for teens, is a challenge we all face.

Several Oregon librarians found a way to work on this challenge by forming a group called the Oregon Young Adult Network. OYAN was born in the late 1980s when a group of Youth Librarians wanted to begin working on activities for teens. They formed a young adult interest group of public and school librarians who began meeting quarterly on an informal basis to share ideas, information, book reviews, and support.

Today OYAN is still meeting on a quarterly basis, but now as a division of OLA. Attendees include library school students, Young Adult Librarians, Children's Librarians, support staff who work with teens, and Media Specialists. It has a growing membership, publishes a quarterly newsletter called the OYAN Review, and presents

workshops at annual conferences of several organizations. Beginning in 2000, OYAN created its Book Rave, an annual list of YA favorites that no library should be without.

In the workshops I present, I find all levels of library staff who want to improve their skills in working with teens. Many staff members did not grow up with young adult literature as varied as we have today. Reader's Advisory is a huge concern. Teens' interests change as fast as their outfits, how can we keep up? The teens of today are most fortunate to have a wealth of young adult literature at their fingertips: fiction which is realistic, poignant, humorous, fantastic, mysterious, and extremely well-written, along with non-fiction on every personal issue imaginable.

Library staff need to be aware of what is out there for teens. There are many fine resources available to assist libraries in designing programs and services for teens. Books are being published all the time, Web sites are created and magazine articles written on how to work with adolescents in our buildings. Colleges and universities want students who are knowledgeable, well read, and able to speak and write. High schools want students ready to learn, able to do research, and excited about the learning process. Public libraries want teens who love to read, are willing to serve on an advisory board, or who will volunteer to help with Summer Reading.

This issue of the *OLAQ* will show you how far Oregon libraries have come in their services to teens. We are most fortunate to have many wonderful writers of adolescent literature

living in Oregon, and Marsha Weber will interview three of our most prominent. Find out what a variety of libraries in different parts of the state are doing to provide and promote their programs, and see what you can do to serve young adults. Resources are included here, as well as the latest OYAN Book Rave. *Slammin! @ Your Library* is the theme for Teen Read Week, October 19 to 25, so in its honor there is poetry by Hillsboro teens. Illustrations throughout this issue were created by Bob Linquist, a Library Clerk who has been working in the Teen Library in Medford (Jackson County) for eight years.

If you have been trying to figure out how to reach the teens of your community, what to do with them once they're in the door, or just want to revel with pride at how far Oregon libraries have come in serving young adults, enjoy this issue of the *Oregon Library Association Quarterly*.

—Anne Guevara
Jackson County Library
Young Adult Services
Guest Editor

As time goes by, books never go out of style. They take you to another land or world. Reading is learning. Libraries' doors are always open, welcoming the youngest readers to the most experienced.

BY BRITTANY ROMO, GRADE 9
NEWBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY