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Oyan Review

oregon young adult network

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2016 YALSA Symposium In a Former Hometown By Violeta Garza, Multnomah County Library

OYAN does not simply support teen services in Oregon, but at times, it reunites members with their Ghosts of Library Past. I finished library school while working at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in 2008, and thanks to an OYAN scholarship, I was able to attend this year's YALSA Symposium in Pittsburgh, PA. So basi-

cally I met author Jesse Andrews (highlight #3) while learning about teen trends (highlight #2) and also learning from my super talented former library colleagues (highlight #1).

Highlight #1
San Antonio Public Library Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez-- my boss of yore-- blew my mind

when she reminded me that children's services in libraries run 12 years, adult services for decades, but teen services is really only 6 years. No wonder our numbers for teen programs are



Pic taken at The Labs @ Allegheny Library Branch using Green Screen app on iPad, along with an actual green screen

small! It's our smallest window. Hang in there, and talk about your

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The Uncertain Future of Douglas County Libraries By, Keli Yeats, Multnomah County Library

Federal Timber Payments are drying up in Southern Oregon, and libraries are being hit hard. In 2007, this conflict was brought to national attention when voters in Jackson County failed to pass a funding levy which re-

sulted in all libraries closing for six months. They were able to provide services to patrons by operating with severely restricted hours under the management of a non-profit. In 2014, voters approved a library district and

Jackson County was able to resume normal library operations.

Douglas County is the now facing this economic crisis. Comprising an area of over 5,000 square miles which span from the coast to the Cascades

and serving 100,000 people, Douglas County has already made deep cuts in many county services to deal with this loss of revenue and the library is the newest casualty. The Douglas County Library System is slated to close

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2016 YALSA Symposium In a Former Hometown cont.

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success stories within those numbers.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Digital Librarian Corey Wittig spoke of building equity and reaching those teens who are not yet in the library. He did a teen series project where teens built a “Humans of New York”-style blog about Pittsburgh trolley workers. Upon completion after 5 days, teens got a \$100 gift certificate. This ensured that teens not only walked away feeling good about the experience, but they also made the connection between learning and making money. Also, teens get badges when learning to use their Makerspace-type equipment in the Labs, such as the music-recording booth, the green screen and iPad, and the like. CLP staff get to know the teens first, and then comes the learning and the badge.

Highlight #2

Here’s a list of other goodies that I’m still thinking about from the conference. Author Dhonielle Clayton mentioned that instead of doing diversity panels, that all panels should be diverse. “It’s okay to read my book outside of Black History

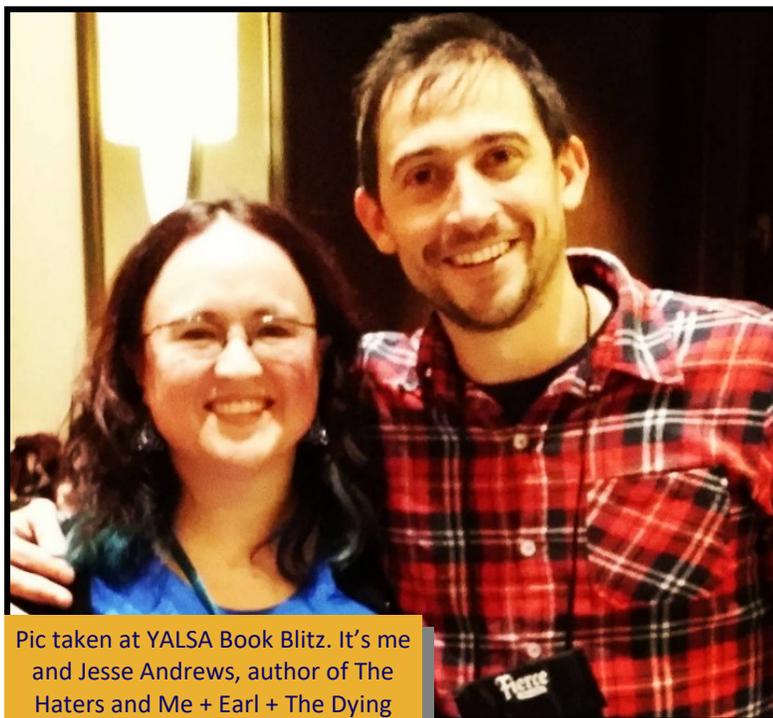
Month.” Also, when working with youth, you may want to introduce yourself with your name and your pronouns.

I also loved the session I attended on teen programming and civic duty. As librarians, we focus a lot on increasing our numbers during our events, but failure can actually be a success and vice versa. Which of these is the real success story? For one, a teen passionately advocated for doing a program where firefighters and cops talk to teens about #blacklivesmatter. Then the

librarian never heard from that teen again. Ha! But the success was that the librarian succeeded in letting the teen know that the library is available and willing to walk the walk. Alternatively, fifty teens showed up to a foreign exchange program event but most attendees only cared about the extra credit the teacher was going to give them. It would have been better to have fewer but dedicated attendees.

Highlight #3

Finally, yes, I met Jesse Andrews-- author of *The Haters and Me* and *Earl* and



Pic taken at YALSA Book Blitz. It's me and Jesse Andrews, author of *The Haters and Me* + *Earl* + *The Dying Girl*. I got all tingly. Swoon.

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2016 YALSA Symposium In a Former Hometown cont.

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The Dying Girl. He was endearingly funny listened to me and even laughed at my jokes. I KNOW. He also charmed our cable-knit sweaters off during the closing session, where he made fun of himself relentlessly. At one point, the moderator asked the authors what kind of advice

they'd tell their teen selves. Jesse's advice? "Be more chill. It's gonna be fine. You WILL have sex one day." Oh, who am I kidding? Highlight #3? Puh-leeze. Meeting the uproarious Jesse Andrews was the absolute best moment of the trip and it's a good thing I'm an adult and happily married. Otherwise I may have re-

sorted to youthful shenanigans, such as not washing the sweater I was wearing when he put his arm on me. For more on this conference, feel free to read the [#yalsa16](#) tweets and/or email me at violtag@multcolib.org for a more complete list of notes. Again, thank you so much, OYAN!

The Uncertain Future of Douglas County Libraries cont.

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ten of its eleven branches on April 1st and the main branch in Roseburg on May 30th. This is a result of voters rejecting a permanent taxing district last November, which would have helped make up the shortfall from the loss of Federal Timber Payments. The reasons that voters cited for

rejecting the measure are familiar; they don't see the value of libraries, many are against a permanent tax, some believed there was an alternate source for funding, there was a worry that passing this measure would reduce funding for other services. Whatever reasons voters had, 55% voted against the funding district.

for that to happen. At this point, Roseburg and Myrtle Creek are the only municipalities that have expressed an interest in taking over the funding and management of their local libraries. As city funding for libraries could be hard to come by, the best case scenario involves reduced hours and services with a heavy reliance on volunteers for day-to-day operations. However, it appears almost definite that all branches will close entirely for at least a short period of time until a solid plan is ready to be implemented.



Marilyn Woodrich speaks at a kickoff for a campaign aimed at saving the Douglas County Library System in Roseburg

The future of the library is uncertain. Right now the best chance to maintain services is for city governments to take over the administration of their libraries, but there is no clear plan

Six, maybe seven things I've learned in Almost 6 months as a Teen Librarian cont.

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grams with me. When the Teen Council decided he should dress up for our Halloween event as "A hipster lumberjack fairy with



I guess it's bigger on the inside

wings" his only reply was that he'd need wing supplies. 6. Middle School and High School teens are different. I obviously knew this; there were those classes

with the social and brain development discussions. But knowing and *knowing* isn't always the same thing. That said, they are both fun and generally supportive of each other.

7. You can fit 7 teens in a cardboard Tardis.

Salem Library's Teen Book Club named to the YALSA Teens' Top Ten panel for 2017-2018 By, Sonja Somerville , Salem Public Library

Salem Public Library's Speak Up! Teen Book Club has been selected for the official Teens' Top Ten panel for 2017-2018. I'm psyched because it was a bit of a complicated application process and they choose just 20 nationwide.

Teens' Top Ten is an annual project of the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association. Announced each October during Teen Read Week, the list recognizes the best young adult books published in the previous year, as nominated and voted on by teens across the county. In 2016, a total of 28,000 teens voted on the 25 nominated books to narrow the list to the official Teens' Top Ten.

As part of the panel, Speak Up! will play a key part in choosing the list of 25 nominees for the next two years.

I have always been dedicated to promoting the nominees and the final list in the Teen Scene at Salem Public Library, encouraging teens to read and vote. I am enthusiastic about the list because it is teen-driven from nomination to voting. No adults allowed.

But I also noted that the panel from 2015-2016 had just one group from the West Coast (a library in Washington). When I saw that applications were open for 2017-2018, I wanted to apply (1) because it would be cool, and (2) because I hoped to help increase

western participation. So I am pleased this panel includes two West Coast groups (mine and a library in California) as well as fellow westerners in Idaho and Arizona.

I'm excited to see how we might impact the results and looking forward to sharing perspectives and opinions with teens across the country.

Also, I'm excited because we will be receiving larger-than-usual numbers of ARCs at our library for the next two years. They estimated 300-500 titles (x3 copies of each) and it's my job to make sure that at least one teens reads and reviews every title. Did I say excited? I think I misspelled overwhelmed.

Six, maybe seven things I've learned in Almost 6 months as a Teen Librarian

By, Rachel Timmons, Hood River Library

!! I have my cardigan and my sunglasses, so I'm ready for anything!" I said this originally about a day out in San Francisco, but it seems to apply pretty well to being a Teen Librarian. I started as the Teen Services Librarian for the Hood River County Library District in August. There had been a teen services person before me, but I am the first Teen Librarian. While people always talk about jumping right into a new job, for me it was more of a head first dive. When I was hired there was an overnight teen lock-in scheduled and full of participants but otherwise unplanned. I got my desk on Thursday and the lock-in was on Friday. And from that amazing and sleep deprived start, I've learned some lessons that they only sort of teach you in school:

1. You can get pizza delivered to a closed library at midnight. Really.
2. Teens are busy! School, jobs, lives, musicals, sports... Somedays we are there to help them with all that, somedays we are there to discuss Star Wars and both are important. I was always one of the quiet shy teens try to be approachable without be-

ing in the way. I'm happy to see a teen reading or working or hanging out even if they don't actively need me. They are also often only sort of in charge of their own schedule. I recently had two valiant volunteers show up on a snowy afternoon only to be commanded home by a mom worried about the storm.

3. Teen communication is either rapid fire or nearly non-existent. You might get a barrage of questions, ideas or texts. Or you may be left wondering if there's anybody out there. Figuring out which I'm going to get is often a mystery and a challenge. I recently planned a program along with our Children's Librarian for a high school senior to give a presentation about his year he spent studying in India. The presentation was thoughtful, funny, informative and generally amazing. But the amount of silence I heard trying to plan it was nervous making.
4. Teens are full of great plans and it's up to me to see if they can also



Staff buy-in is vital

5. Support and cooperation from other staff is the only way you'll survive. My job has been a combination of new and inherited plans and a lot of figuring out how to fit into traditions and relationships. While not always easy, the staff around me has been unfailingly willing to help me. And they have also listened to the strange and wonderful ideas that are brewing with open minds. I have been lucky and co-opted one of the clerks (Watson to my Sherlock, as a regular teen described him) who has done everything from be tech support to co-adult after hour pro-

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OYAN: Finding great reads for Oregon teens!



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oregon Legislators love selecting books to donate to their local libraries. If you have a book in new or like new condition you would like to donate to this casue, contact Jane Corry at 503.988.5382

Apply for a \$3,000 grant to implement Camp Wonderopolis curriculum in your library. Find details here.

Don't forget: Maggie Steifvater will be giving an author talk at this year's OLA conference.

Library Services and Technology Act Grant applications are due April 5th, 2017

We welcome all your comments, articles, photos, book reviews, ideas, and suggestions for future OYAN Review newsletters! Please submit to oyanpublications@gmail.com.

Upcoming Meetings

Table with 3 columns: Meeting Season, Meeting Date, Meeting Location. Rows include Winter 2017 (Jan 27, 2017) at St. Helens Public Library, Spring 2017 (May 12, 2017) at Tillamook County Library, and Fall 2017 (TBD) at TBD.

OYAN [Oregon Young Adult Network] exists to provide a network for communication and growth among people who provide library services to teens, to increase awareness of teen library services in the state of Oregon, and to promote cooperation between school and public libraries.

Visit us online at http://tinyurl.com/8mzjq5n.