

TEEN LIBRARIAN

Monthly

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Editorial

Welcome to the first newsletter for Teen Librarians and Librarians that work with Teenagers in Libraries. Hopefully this will come out on a monthly basis with news about what is going on nationally and also focus on what Librarians are up to in their branches.

If anyone would like to submit an article for the newsletter or if there are any comments please send them to:

teenlibraryservice@googlemail.com

Author event



Editor & Eric Schlosser

I was fortunate to have recently attended a Puffin hosted author event with Eric Schlosser the author of *Chew on This: everything you don't want to know about fast food*. Published by Puffin Books, ISBN: 0141318449.

He spoke about the research he had done for his original book *Fast Food Nation* and how at the urging of his co-writer he adapted it for younger readers.

I purchased myself a copy and am almost finished reading it, I recommend it highly for all Teen or Young Adult collections.

The *Independent on Sunday* described it thusly: 'Chew on This is a terrific read. A paired-down kids' menu to *Fast Food Nation's* whopper meal, it has lost none of its bite.'

After the talk was finished the attendees flocked around buying books, which Mr Schlosser duly signed, and chatted to him about his writing history; and the threats he has received from the food industry.

Author events are a good way to meet fellow Librarians and workers in other sectors that have an interest in Teens and Teen literature.

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Library Service Teen Website of the month

This section is where I will recommend a Library Service that has put a lot of work into providing a Teen section for their Library Service website.

The first Library Service Teen site of the month goes to Bedfordshire Libraries Teen Turf site available to view through this link:

<http://urlsnip.com/271038>

I have used urlsnip to shorten the address, as it is fairly long.

If anyone has a suggestion for a site they think worthy of being dubbed 'site of the month' please let the editor know.

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What does Hagrid use on the 18th hole of the Hogwarts Golf Course?

His Harry Putter.

The Reading Agency

The Reading Agency has developed an Improvement Framework along with input from ASCEL, SCL and the National Youth Agency. It shows what all library services should be aiming for at standard, medium and advanced levels.

Currently they are developing a number of online support tools for library via *Their Reading Futures*

(www.theirreadingfutures.org.uk), which will support authorities to move forward with the Improvement Framework. These will be available from the end of June onwards.

The TRA is very focused on finding ways for young people to become actively involved with the library service. A number of different projects they're involved with are exploring what the issues are when you have young people involved:

They have a project called **Partners for Change** in the South West, which is looking at how you involve young people at risk of exclusion in library services.

They also have got a couple of bids into the Lottery around setting up a Young **Volunteers** scheme in public libraries in 3 London boroughs (Greenwich, Havering and Enfield) and in the North West.

And are also hoping to set up a **Manga** project with all the library services in the North East

Finally there is also a project that has just started in the North West, where all the authorities are working together on a regional pilot of Fulfilling their Potential.

Staff from the library services will be receiving ongoing training from the National Youth Agency, the Regional Youth Work Unit and The Reading Agency to support them in moving forward with their work with young people.

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Teenage Reading Groups

The next TRG event I am organising for my branch (Thamesmead Library) will be held on the 6th June – 06/06/06 I hope that is not a sign of what may happen.

Ominous portents aside (it is just a coincidence – I hope) it is called the **TRG X Factor**, participants will be allowed to perform a song, dance or read a section of prose or poetry of their choice.

The X Factor idea started as a joke, which I made the mistake of mentioning to the group members several months ago. They bugged me about it every time some of them came into the Library until I relented and organised round one.

To keep it within the realm of reading I have started putting together a collection of books about teens seeking fame through acting or singing that will tie into the whole event. So far I have not heard from Simon Cowell's lawyers so I am assuming that everything is fine.

I will report back on how it goes in this column next month.

If anyone has a TRG event they are planning or have completed and would like to brag about it please send it in to the e-mail address mentioned under the editorial heading.

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Teen Library Service Website

The TLS website is running well with an update at least once a week. The entire site is in the process of being redesigned and barring any unforeseen incidents, will be ready for relaunch in little over a month's time.

The site address at present is:

<http://teenlibraryserviceuk.bravehost.com>

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If you received this from a colleague and would like to be added to the mailing list, please let the editor know at:

teenlibrarysrvice@googlemail.com