

KEEPING UP WITH THE KIDS:

PD FOR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH SERVICES TEAMS



A *LIA Children's and Youth Services Group* convenor **NICOLA MCGEOWN** asks her peers what professional development library staff should do to cater to the young adult crowd.

Working in a public library I am constantly experimenting with new ways to encourage teens into our branch to enjoy the young adult (YA) space and make it appealing. I also communicate with library staff around the globe, especially using social media to discuss new ideas to make the library spaces more inviting to the YA demographic. Having a conversation about what has worked and what wasn't popular, bouncing ideas off others and sharing display and

event ideas are all great ways to keep up with trends and discover new ways to connect with your YA patrons. I also read a wide range of YA fiction and consider it a very important part of my job to know and promote the collection. As part of this reaching out, I sought feedback from some of my peers in the ALIA Children's and Youth Services Group as to what professional development they thought was important for children and youth services library staff. ❌

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Working in a school library means staying on top of the latest publishing trends for teens and being able to connect with young people through reading. I don't think there is enough emphasis placed on the importance of librarians being readers themselves. I consider reading YA fiction an integral part of my professional development and lifelong learning into youth literature and empower other school library staff to do the same. We are all time-poor, but the benefits that come from knowing the books I'm promoting, and modelling reading to my students make the effort worth it. And hey, reading amazing YA books every week is hardly a chore. **Karys McEwen**

As a voracious reader, parent, volunteer at two school libraries, and a librarian, I make sure I read what is being published. From picture books to graphic novels and YA fiction, I read to ensure I have the knowledge when the student, parent, teacher or education support officer asks 'have you got a book on...'. I also make sure to spend time talking to patrons, endlessly debating the merits of a book and suggesting books to include in classrooms. I also read professional journals, because they often provide me with insight into issues face. **Jac Wheadon**

I have found practitioner research to be a fantastic way to stay up-to-date. I work in a public library and have recently completed research in the area of inclusive public libraries for children with disability and their families. My research involved extensive reading on the topic, as well as developing relationships with youth librarians, families and disability service providers throughout the world. I also had the privilege of presenting my research at conferences and observing inclusive programs of other librarians. I highly recommend practitioner research, it has encouraged me to be reflective of my programs and to develop partnerships outside of my library. **Jo Kaeding**

I work in a primary school library and firstly I get to know the students, their abilities and interests, to foster a positive relationship with books. To stay current in my profession I am always reading, whether it's professional reading on social media or reading books in our library. I also volunteer as secretary for the WA School Library Association (WASLA) organising PD and am in the process of organising a joint PD event between the ALIA WA Library Technicians' Group and WASLA. I take my knowledge gained through PD, social media, and reading back to our library so our students can feel inspired and excited to read. **Helen Tomazin**