

YALSA Guidelines for Participation of Youth in Libraries

- Be centered on issues of real interest and concern to youth
- Have the potential to benefit people other than those directly involved
- Allow for youth input from the planning stage forward
- Focus on some specific, do-able tasks
- Receive adult support and guidance, but avoid adult domination
- Allow for learning and development of leadership and group work skills
- Contain opportunities for training and for discussion of progress made and problems encountered
- Give evidence of youth decisions being implemented
- Avoid exploitation of youth for work which benefits the agency rather than the young adults
- Seek to recruit new participants on a regular basis
- Plan for staff time, funds, administrative support, transportation, etc., before launching project
- Show promise of becoming an ongoing, long term activity

WHAT:

Youth Participation in libraries is involvement of young adults in responsible action and significant decision-making which affects the design and delivery of library and information services for their peers and the community.

WHY:

Youth Participation in library decision-making is important as a means of achieving more responsive and effective library and information service for this age group. It is even more important as an experience through which young adults can enhance their learning, personal development, citizenship and transition to adulthood.