Introductions

MLA Updates

- Conference is a month away!
- TIG Sponsored Events:
  - Video Game Bootcamp
  - EMERGE: New Adults in the Library
  - Library at Lunch
  - Engaging Teens in Responsible and Responsive Activism
- Silent Auction Basket
  - Will be video game themed
  - Set price will be about $140.00
  - If you’d like to contribute to the cost, please reach out to Jake
- There is an MLA Channel in Discord
  - We will be posting about an informal hang out through this channel
- Kids are Customers happened on March 29 - How was it? What should stay or change for next year?
  - It would be nice to have a teen-only session
  - If not a teen-only session, potentially a tween-track which might be the actual bridge
  - Lots of questions about the teen department after the speaker so this could be a focus for the future
  - Use the “rainbow” or find a way to avoid missing letters
  - For the next session maybe have resources for homeschool families, creating neurodivergent-friendly programming/spaces, potentially highlight award list committees to recruit during it
  - Kids are Customers Committee will be recruiting for next conference so they might want a TIG representative to help plan teen / tween sessions

Discussion

- Challenges of engaging teens / tweens in spring
  - “Death March” for students: weather gets nice and less days off school, so it becomes a time when teens might have more things come up
  - This is also a period where Standard Testing, Finals, Graduation, etc become more pressing which amps up the stress
- This is also a time where there might be no way to resolve grades or issues before the school year ends. This could be an avoidance of failure by not trying.
  - Teens getting very close with each other (canoodling) has become a thing that keeps happening
  - Vaping is also a thing we’re seeing often
  - Tween-age running around in the branch - maybe pushing boundaries
  - Branch closures have been making it a challenge to maintain a presence in the community
- Solutions
  - One system has an outdoor area where they can take a break without getting kicked out immediately; a space to get footballs
  - Having things for them to do which gets the energy out: board games, puzzles, popup programs, ping pong tables,
  - Try to find a way to engage these new teens with their interests - they might be coming in for specific things (gaming computer) - but try to pivot to be inclusive
  - Roving is important to be present
  - Celebrating teens in the stressful points - connect them with resources they might need during testing or career, support and show excitement about their upcoming dances / graduation
  - Open study room hall hours which will have dedicated space, cozy music, etc.
  - Create opportunities to give them small moments of success that aren't academic.
    - Having teens involved in other ways in the branch - on-the-fly crafts, create playlists for younger kids
  - Barometer for success might be contingent on the teens you’re working with.
  - With SRC coming we want to try to make sure we keep establishing partnerships so that teens know that we’re still eager to see them back - also trying to to maintain relationships with the partners who work with teens so we have someone who still has connections.
- Goals for TIG moving forward
  - MLA is moving towards organization memberships which might help bring in new faces across the board
  - Time, money, and system support are factors for participation
  - Things that are working
    - Discord is great
    - The community and social vibe
    - Support network for new / developing librarians
  - Things that could be improved
    - Need more energy in meetings
    - TigTalks nice, Discord can be a challenge to use for voice and video chat
More Opportunities for CEUS - trainings and workshops
  ● Desired workshop topics
    ○ More Outreach based ideas
    ○ K-pop
    ○ Social Media and Using Social Media
      ■ Advertising in general and to high schoolers
    ○ How to grow teen audiences
    ○ Supporting one teen person into a team of teen savvy staff
    ○ Getting staff on board with teens
    ○ How do you advocate for teens and teen services

More partnerships with other divisions in MLA
  ● Could there be a MLA orientation or a welcome to TIG event due to the organization memberships
    ○ Jakki and Tori would like to
      ■ See more people committed to engaging on TIG projects
      ■ See what other opportunities there are to partner with other organizations that serve teens that aren’t necessarily library based
      ■ Continue building momentum

Resource Sharing
  ● Talk about your favorite book to tie into SRC theme
    ○ The Words in my Hands - Asphyxia
    ○ Blue Period
    ○ The Do Over - Lynn Painter
    ○ Wotakoi
    ○ Moxie - Jennifer Mathieu

Agenda Buildings
  ● Next Meeting: July 2023