TIG meeting, May 11, 2013 at the MLA/DLA Annual Conference

Attending: Heather Owings (Chair), Krista McKenzie, J. Alan Simpson, Debra Spurrier, Allyson Evans, Tracy Miller, Amy Kirchofer, Melissa Racine, Beth Chandler

What people liked about the online TIG meeting in March:

- Didn’t have to drive, and our distance from meeting place was not a factor in whether we could attend.
- Chatting worked better because most attenders didn’t have a headset
- Actual meeting doesn’t last long and doesn’t offer CEUs, so hard to justify attending

Heather suggested we host a training in the fall and have a TIG meeting afterward. This way everyone would earn CEUs and attend an in-person meeting. She also proposed we have another online meeting in December.

Pickup Programs

People who had attended the “Is There a Typical Teen?” workshop shared ideas from the workshop. The most useful idea was to be prepared for nonscheduled programs at times when a large group of teens are unexpectedly in the library:

- Pickup crafts: have bags of craft items on hand, and when teens gather, have a staff member or volunteer with a sample do a quick training before handing out bags for teens to work on
- Have rotating “programming totes” in your library system with everything needed for a program. The staff member who uses the tote for a program later refills tote items as needed, then sends the tote to another branch.
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg has a list of nonscheduled programs that can be used called "Teen Take-Out", though supplies are expensive for some.
After discussion we decided not to do a workshop on “pickup” programs. Instead, our fall in-person meeting will have a “round robin” where attenders can bring a sample and show off a “pickup craft” they’ve used.

**Possible fall programs:**

Possible subjects for training: Programs for teen parents; Noise in the library; How to reach non-user teens: how do we survey them? How do we get them to come to programs?; How to run a book club or writing club.

The group discussed Teen Interest/Advisory groups at length as a possible topic: How can teens be empowered to run their group, with librarian coordinating and advising. Implementing teen-related policies such as fine reduction programs? One librarian said her teens tend to be more interested in doing policy work and advocacy than planning programs for themselves. Krista McKenzie has some contacts through YALSA about that and will provide the information to TIG members. Also, many attenders wondered, can a librarian drive teens to politician’s office or other places? It depends on the library branch/system’s policy.

Best possibilities for our fall program, which might be provided by a member of YALSA if we contact ALA:

How to survey non-user teens
Step up: Teens doing advocacy

**Summer Reading Ideas and Plans:**

- Musical playlist: have teens write on a whiteboard: list songs that say what "Beneath the Surface" means to them, what their "summer song" is, or what their favorite song is.
- Makerspace programs including "building towers" cartooning workshop
- Video editing class, a prelude to the system’s fall video competition
• Writing contest "What's beneath the surface?" with prize of Natalie Goldberg's writing book.

• Battle of the Books using grant money: compete in "Quiz Bowl/It's Academic" style competition based on list of books to be read.

• YA desk has a "secret dossier" program, each week with next chapter of a mystery story. Teens solve each part of the mystery by using the library.

• Any kid/teen under 18 can come in and get free breakfast and free lunch at a community college (http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/seamless_summer.htm). Proof of income is not needed. The community college will have programming and free swim times at a gym nearby for kids and teens who come for breakfast.

• Partnership with the local Judy Center that runs programs for low-income people; librarian went to do programs for kids, now teens come there to library. (http://www.msde.maryland.gov/MSDE/divisions/child_care/early_learning/Judy.htm)

• Training summer teen volunteers on Overdrive, Zinio and OneClick (piloted during Teen Tech Week). Librarian was amazed at how patient teens were with newbie technology users.

• Interview teens for summer reading volunteer positions so the teens understand they (not their parents) have to be responsible for their volunteer work. The staff sets a maximum 3 hour session for teen volunteers or they lose focus. Staff sets up the teens with laptops to sign up patrons for the summer reading program and crafts that need cut out for storytimes.

• Use volunteers as a base group for other things such as setting up TAG group.

• Having a summer program (including raffle for prizes) entirely online at one system last year vastly increased teen participation.

Summer Booktalks and Booklists:
One system works with a media specialist who gives librarians a booklist to work from. In some other systems, public librarians create lists and school media specialists review them. One librarian was told by a teacher that books were too disturbing for teens of that age, despite choosing mild books.
The amount of control media specialists have in another library system varies depending on the media specialist, but usually the public librarian is given free rein. Some systems buy books on the school-created booklists but they don't always check out because teens don't necessarily like them. Also, many public libraries don't have books the schools do and vice versa. One reason is that some schools have old collections due to lack of money.

**Teen-Book Round Robin:**

Hub reading challenge: list of teen award winners from 2012, including *Crusher* (audiobook); and *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* (boy book, realistic, irreverent, caution for language and boy-talk about boobs, etc) --both excellent.

- *Friends with Boys* by Faith Erin Hicks: really good
- *Aristotle and Dante Discover The Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin A. Saenz: excellent Printz honor and Stonewall award book: Latino boys, good family love.
- *The Diviners* by Libba Bray: (many opinions on this one) gearing up to read it--don't! It's scary--no, it's cheesy--it's not bad--it goes on forever.
- Two good audiobooks: *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein and *Chomp!* by Hiaasen
- *Witch and Wizard* by Patterson was cheesy, and tried to be too much at once.
- *Carter's Big Break* by Brent Crawford: an awful guy book, with a poor story. The character is offensive about his girlfriend, and his self-worth depends on how much sex he's having—and he's 13 years old.
- *The Children and the Wolves* by Adam Rapp: read-alike to *Living Dead Girl*, very disturbing but a magnet for teens; also very short.
- 2 "likes" for *Raven Boys* by Maggie Stiefvater.
- *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* was really good.
- Recent teen book club books that were popular: *Trash* and *Mrs Peregrin’e School for Peculiar Children*. 
Books for the Beast: one librarian is trying to develop a reading collection based on the list and wants to take teens who complete it to the conference. How to coordinate a teen group and take them up: if a county vehicle is used it can be done for library purposes in one county. it's every other year. Some teens are interested: give them the forms and info to do it independently. Raina Telgemeier is speaker: one librarian had attended a workshop by Ms. Telgemeier, who had someone in the audience tell her a story. Then she broke it down into parts and diagrammed specific parts of story as for graphic novel design.

Appendix on next page: sample Teen Program Survey by Beth Chandler and Chang-yu Hsiao, Montgomery County Public Library
Teen/Preteen Program Survey

Help us plan the programs you would like to see at the Aspen Hill Library. Please turn this survey in at the adult Information Desk at the library.

Age: _______ Grade: _______ E-mail (optional): ____________________________________________
(your e-mail will be used only to let you know about future teen programs at the library)

What is the best time for you to come to events at the library? Please circle all times that you can come to events.

After school: Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday
I want after-school programs to start at:  3:00  3:30

Weekday evenings starting at 6 pm:  Monday  Wednesday

Saturday:  2pm  4pm

Please rate each of the following teen-program ideas using one of these letters:
V=Very Interested  I=Interested  N=Not Interested

____  1. A craft activity (circle the ones you like): recycling/upcycling plastic or metal items, jewelry making, sock puppets, or: ________________________________

____  2. A book-sharing party, for you to share a little about your favorite books and learn about other teens’ recommendations.

____  3. Guitar Hero and Rock Band

____  4. Game Day (again!) with board games and computer games

____  5. A drawing or cartooning workshop (circle one if you don’t like both)

____  6. A photography workshop (bring your own camera)

____  7. A writing workshop or ongoing writing club.

____  8. A manga/anime afternoon to talk about your favorites, show off your drawings, cosplay skills, or collections, and watch anime.

____  9. A popcorn-and-movie afternoon or evening.

____  10. Something else—please describe it below (use the other side of the page if you want.)