

HISTORY OF YOUTH SERVICES TIMELINE

- 1600s Children begin to appear alone in portraits; awakening perception of childhood. John Locke's notion that play contributes to learning, children are *tabula rasa*.
- 1659 *Orbis Sensualium Pictus*: first illustrated book for children.
- 1700s Moral instruction in literature for children: "The Lord delights in them that speak/ The Words of Truth; byt ev'ry Lyar/ Must have his Potion in the Lake/ That burns with Brimstone and with Fire." (James Janeway).
- 1729 Charles Perrault's *Tales of Mother Goose*.
- 1744 John Newbery's *Little Pretty Pocket Book*: for children's education and enjoyment!
- 1762 Jean-Jacques Rousseau writes *Emile: or, On Education* in which he espouses the idea that children are valuable as themselves. Claims that "reading is the scourge of childhood. [Books] merely teach us to talk about things we know nothing about." Emphasizes the *process* of growing up, not just the end product.
- 1800s Developing concept of childhood; children begin to dress differently from adults (more informal allowing freedom of movement). Sunday school libraries were popular, but mostly moral and religious texts.
- 1803 Caleb Bingham. Salisbury, Conn., established Bingham Library for Youth of 150 books for ages 9-16.
- 1804 Dr. Jesse Torrey. New Lebanon, NY, established library for ages 9-16. Lewis and Clark expedition.
- 1812 War of 1812. Grimms' *Children's and Household Tales*.
- 1822 Dr. Leonard. Dublin, NH, Opened his private library to neighborhood.
- 1823 Apprentice Library Assoc. Brooklyn establishes Youth Library with literature for boys ages 12+; girls allowed one afternoon a week.
- 1826 Early mention in the literature of school libraries.
- 1827 Lexington, Mass., library failed due to lack of funds. Industrialization and Child Labor issues.
- 1835 Dr. Ebenezer Learned of W. Cambridge, Mass., gave \$100 to establish [children's library](#). Selection of books by ministers and doctors. Became Arlington Public Library. Hatmaker, "Uncle" Dexter opens his library to children on Saturdays.
- 1838 NY and Mass. (1842), set aside revenue for schools, which provided matching funds to establish libraries.
- 1850 Census recorded 1,988 Sunday school libraries.
- 1861 Start of Civil War.
- 1870s Economic depression. Rise in popularity of Oliver Optic and Horatio Alger, Jr. series.
- 1873 Ohio transferred school libraries to public ones. Emily Hanaway in NYC followed suit in 1865. Later she formed the Children's Library Assoc., which was incorporated into New York Free Circulation Library, but the project was abandoned because children disturbed adults.
- 1876 William Isaac Fletcher wrote "Public Libraries and the Young." chapter 18 in the Bureau of Education's [PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA](#), raising the issue of age restrictions and special facilities for children.
- 1876 ALA founded.



- 1877 Minerva Sanders, Pawtucket, RI admitted children to library. Open stacks available and the adults made no complaints about the children's behavior. William H. Brett, Cleveland, also installed open shelves and allowed children to enter the adult area.
- 1878 Caroline Hewins raised the issue of quality of available children's literature and the need for separate facilities. She campaigned with annual reports to ALA conventions (1882-1892)
- 1882 Caroline Hewins publishes first selective bibliography of children's books.
- 1885 Boston. Children's Aid Society provided a bookcase and 15 books to neighborhood homes for children ages 6-16. A volunteer visited weekly, rotated the collections and held storyhour. Plan was adopted by Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New York City.
- 1890 Pratt Institute offered training to staff in children's work. Brookline, Mass. established separate facilities for children. Minneapolis and Hartford, Conn. in 1893, Cambridge, Mass. and Denver in 1894, and Boston, Omaha, Seattle, New Haven, and San Francisco in 1895.
- 1893 Hewins' "Reading of the Young" and "Books that Children Like" (1897) were instrumental in bringing about changes in the field.
- 1896 Mary W. Plummer. Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, first children's room included in architect's blueprints. Carnegie libraries included separate facilities for children.
- 1898 Pittsburgh offered two-year course, which included 18 hours practice work per week for staff. Existence already of strained relationships between school and public libraries (pub. libs. respond with bulk deliveries of books to schools). Anne Carroll Moore's "Special Training for Children's Librarians" published.
- 1899 Pratt Institute offers Library Science courses in children's area.
- 1900 What is now ALSC founded. Rise in librarian interest in (and demand for) good quality children's literature – linked to the late 19th century rise of series books. Educational philosopher John Dewey espouses child-centered hands-on learning.
- 1906 Anne Carroll Moore appointed head of Children's Dept. at NY Public Library.
- 1909 Western Reserve began program in Library Science for children's services.
- 1910 Boy Scouts of America founded.
- 1912 Girl Scouts of America founded.
- 1914 WW I
- 1919 Macmillan forms first children's division in a publishing house. Children's Book Week established (collaboration between Franklyn Matthiews, librarian of the Boy Scouts; Frederic Melcher, publisher and editor of *Publishers Weekly*; and librarian Anne Carroll Moore to promote moral literature, book sales, and reading), and children's book award proposed (became the Newbery).
- 1920s YA collections start with special alcoves or room for them. Roaring Twenties, Prohibition, post-war "return to normalcy," financial boom.
- 1920 19th Amendment to Constitution guaranteeing women the right to vote.
- 1922 First [Newbery Award](#).
- 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial (teaching evolution in schools)
- 1930s Great Depression, Dust bowl, rise of Hitler in Germany, increased immigration to US, increase in number of children, decreasing library budgets, increased youth circulation. The four-fold service model emerges: reference, selection, readers' advisory, and programming.

- 1930 What is now [YALSA](#) founded. Surge in YA awareness.
- 1930 Preschool story hours become popular (notice the increasing emphasis on younger and younger children).
- 1938 First [Caldecott Award](#).
- 1940s WW II
- 1945 “School Libraries of Today and Tomorrow” published by ALA provides standards for school media librarians (revised in 1960 by AASL as “Standards for School Library Programs”, again in 1969 by AASL and NEA as “Standards for School Media Programs”, again in 1975, again in 1998, with NCATE in 2003 as “Standards for the 21st Century Learner,” and in 2009 as “Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Programs”).
- 1950s Cold War, economic prosperity, school libraries begin transformation to school media centers to support curriculum changes and new technologies, and public libraries realize increased need for curriculum support and information books. YA literature becomes a literary phenomenon unto itself, and YA services expand based on the model of children’s services, though it’s interesting to see that the original “children’s” libraries were for what we now consider YAs. Young Adult Services Division (YASD) of ALA formed in 1957.
- 1954 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for lasting contribution to children’s literature.
- 1960s Civil Rights Movement, Baby boomers, Vietnam War, school libraries develop due to Space Race and Great Society, storefront libraries as public library outreach.
- 1963 Children’s Specialist appointed to Library of Congress.
- 1966 [Mildred L. Batchelder Award](#) for most distinguished book in translation.
- 1970s Vietnam War, Watergate, Generation X, Sesame Street, Electric Company. Abrupt decline in YA services.
- 1978 Proposition 13 in California that reduced property taxes and financially stressed many state and local programs, including libraries.
- 1991 [Carnegie Medal](#) for excellence in children’s video.
- 1992 YASD becomes Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)
- 1994 First website with teen-design focus (L.A. Public Library’s TeenS’cape)
- 1996 [Pura Belpre Award](#) for most distinguished book portraying Latina/o culture by a Latina/o author and illustrator
- 1998 Teen Read Week established.
- 201 [Robert F. Sibert Award](#) for excellence in youth informational book.
- 2000 First [Michael L. Printz Award](#) for YA Literature
- 2004 [Theodor Seuss Geisel Award](#) for most distinguished beginning reader book.
- 2008 [Odyssey Award](#) for excellence in youth audiobooks.

Current Social Trends	Current Library Challenges
Increasing minority populations, particularly Hispanic	Decreasing funding except for buildings
Increasing women in workforce, though since 1994, stay-at-home mothers have increased in two-parent families.	Labor shortages of qualified MLS candidates due, in part, to shifting LIS focus; also high projected retirements
Decreasing proportion of children (<18)/capita: 50% in 1870, 36% in 1960,	Added benefit/challenge of technology

26% in 2000, 25% in 2006	
Decreasing illiteracy (unable to read or write in any language): 20% in 1870, 0.6% in 1979	Preoccupation with “legitimacy” and salaries
Increasing home schooling and charter schools	Marginal status of young people in US society
	Empowered youth (\$, tech, and weapons)
	Low salaries (though this is improving)

Results:

Economic depression = libraries valued, but no \$ available for them

Economic prosperity = libraries devalued, so \$ spent on other things