

TEEN LIBRARIAN

Monthly

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Editorial

Welcome back to Teen Librarian Monthly! The only monthly newsletter for Teen Librarians by Teen Librarians. This month we have a bit of a mixed bag of news, reviews and other items of interest. Perhaps the most important part of this newsletter is the information on a new UK-based Graphic Novel mailing list. There are also a number of other articles that may be of interest to Librarians around the country including several youth-oriented websites, a review of a recent training day held by YLG South East.

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CommonSense Media

Not really a service aimed at Libraries but it can be used to find age-appropriate titles of DVDs and books as well as reviews by adults and youths.

Common Sense Media is dedicated to improving the media and entertainment lives of kids and families.

CSM exists because they feel that media and entertainment profoundly impact the social, emotional, and physical development of children and youth. It is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization, that provides trustworthy information and tools, as well as an independent forum, so that families can have a choice and a voice about the media they consume.

Beliefs

Media is fun and kids love it. We also know that kids now spend so much time absorbing its messages and images that it has become "the other

parent" in their lives. The organization was started because families need trustworthy information to help manage their kids' media lives.

<http://www.commonsemmedia.org/>

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Youth volunteering portal launched

A new website has been launched to act as a gateway for volunteering opportunities for young people in England.

The site, www.vinspired.com, has been set up by the charity V to act as a national gateway for information and guidance on volunteering.

Aimed at 16 to 25-year-olds in England, the site features blogs, question and answer forums, a chat room, case studies and volunteering opportunities with charities including the British Red Cross and Global Xchange.

The launch of the website is a key part of the government's drive to encourage more young people to volunteer.

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Imokta

IMOKTA (as in 'I'm OK Ta') is an online lifestyle website for 14 to 19 year-olds. Included is an issues section for young people plus games games, wallpaper, film and music reviews! The issues section has cartoon animations in real life situations, and shows young people how to stay safe.

This site was initially developed on behalf of the Bolton Community Safety Team as part of their commitment and work to support young people in

Bolton but includes resources that can be used and accessed universally.
<http://www.imokta.co.uk/home.asp>

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UK Graphic Novel Mailing List Mailing List

A discussion group for library professionals in the UK to discuss all things about graphic novels. Inspired by the USA list GNLIB, but this one will be more focussed on UK issues in the library world.

This important resource was started by Angela Robinson and already has over 25 members and a number of interesting discussions in its short life so far.

To join follow this link:
<http://groups.google.co.uk/group/GNLIBUK>

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No Flying No Tights

A website about graphic novels for teens and those that work with teens – started by Librarians this site covers the entire gamut of graphic storytelling – from Newspaper strips to Manga.

This site has been broken down into three sections: the original No Flying, no tights the graphic novel review site for teens. There is also [Sidekicks](#), a site devoted to all those kids graphic novels out there. On the other end of the spectrum is [The Lair](#), featuring graphic novels for older teens and adults.

<http://www.noflyingnotights.com/>

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Anime for Libraries

This website has been designed to be used by librarians looking for professional and informative reviews of anime (or Japanese animation.) Created by and maintained by librarians and library professionals who actually like anime, the focus of the site is to provide the information we believe will be most useful to others in the library profession trying to decide which anime to buy for their libraries.

Instead of a brief, mostly subjective review, we try to provide as much information as possible so that librarians can be aware of anything that might send up a “red flag” or upset a patron. We not only review the anime, but also the special features and the previews, because we know that these things are sometimes the trigger for requests for reconsideration. Each review is spilt up into five sections:

- General information, such as the title and the production company's rating, comes at the top,
- “**What it’s (basically) all about**” is a summary of the anime that the review is about,
- the “**Nitty Gritty**” gives the specific details and information that we think librarians will want to know,
- “**Survey says**” is where you will find our professional opinion on which collection the anime should probably be housed in.
- “**Personal Ad**” is where you get a subjective opinion on the anime, just in case you find that information pertinent.

<http://www.animeforlibraries.com/>

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YLG South East Give Them What They Want

Thursday 10th May, 9.30 – 4.30, Martlets Hall, Burgess Hill

On 10th May, YLG South East held their annual day school, focussing on teenagers, manga and consultation. “Give Them What They Want” involved speakers Jerry Hurst (“Leading and Being Led”), Dr Mel Gibson (“Getting to Grips with Graphic Novels and Manga”) and after lunch speaker Graham Marks.

Jerry ran an interactive workshop session, looking at ways that we can engage teenagers and young people in library settings, be it a school, college or public library. With helpful and practical tips, such as “Hot Walls” and how to work with Focus Groups. Participants will be reminded of what they said they will do as a result of the course in 6 months time, when they receive a postcard from Jerry!

Dr Mel demonstrated her encyclopaedic knowledge of Graphic Novels, Manga and Anime by running her sessions as an open forum, asking participants what they wanted to know and answering any and all questions thrown at her. Mel also demonstrated how the majority of Manga readers are female, as opposed to the stereotypical middle-aged male!

Graham managed to entertain everyone in the post-lunch graveyard slot, talking about how he got into writing for teenagers, and what he thinks makes a successful Young Adult novel. He stayed behind to sign copies of his books in the afternoon break.

Overall, this was a really instructive and well received day with comments such as "I really appreciated the Graphics session" and "The most useful part of the course was Jerry's session and the chance to network and swap ideas". Many of the delegates are also going to read a Graphic Novel for the first time!

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Penguin launches UK's first online book community for teenagers

On **Friday 8th June 2007, London** Penguin announced the launch of a pioneering online book community for teenagers. Spinebreakers.co.uk will be a stimulating and entertaining portal into the world of books, run by teenagers themselves. Editorial control of the site will be in the hands of a core editorial team of nine teenagers aged between 13 and 18 years, supported by a large network of contributing teen editors from across the UK.

<http://www.penguin.co.uk/static/cs/uk/0/articles/teensite/index.html>

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What happened when the bloodhound wrote his autobiography?

It got on the best smeller list.

Trolley Dash

Move over Dale!

Plymouth Library Services have adapted the supermarket sweep concept to libraries. A group of young offenders took part in the activity, which aimed to enable them familiarise themselves with the layout of the adult lending library and the books available for loan.

Each team had a push along trolley with a team colour ribbon attached. The winning team were the first to return to the children's library with the completed list of titles.

Their 'shopping list' included:

A true story of a sports person's life written by a biographer

An award-winning story

A book you read at primary school or at home

A guide on a sport of your choice

A 2006 Dance CD

A DVD you would recommend

A guide to speaking a European language

An autobiography of a famous person of your choice

The winning team collected all of the books and their information correctly including Dewey number, title and author. The activity generated much excitement for the young people and librarians involved.

For further information on activities for young people in Plymouth, please contact Emma Sherriff, Outreach Support Officer on 01752 306791 or Email:

Emma.Sherriff@plymouth.gov.uk

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Submissions

If anyone would like to submit an article or idea for inclusion in the newsletter, please send it to teenlib@teenlibrarian.co.uk

Eight Questions with... Cherry Whytock

Q1. What made you decide to write for Teenagers?

I didn't really choose to write for teenagers! I had been doing quite a lot of illustrating when Brenda Gardner of Piccadilly Press saw my drawings and asked if I would like to write something to go with them. I can honestly say that I hadn't thought of writing stories before that – but – she was very inspiring and I got tremendously over-excited and began writing straight away. That was four years ago and I haven't stopped since!

Q2. How do you get into the heads of your characters?

I always draw my characters before I start writing about them, even if the book is not, in the end, going to be illustrated. I find that once I can see the character I begin to know what sort of person they will be then I can begin to think like them. I watch people all the time, take notes and make little sketches when I see someone that I think is particularly wonderful. Even though it was a LONG time ago, I can still remember very well how it felt to be a teenager and that helps.

Q3. Do you know instinctively what will appeal to Teens or is it more a hit or miss process?

I hope I know instinctively what will appeal to teens. If I have any doubts about something I ask my daughters for advice. They are not teenagers any more, but they are both wonderful critics and will put me straight if I make something too 'grown up' and boring!

Q4. What is the most satisfying part of the writing process for you?

There are some magical days when my fingers fly about on the keyboard and the characters seem to be writing the story themselves. Time goes by unnoticed and the whole process is deeply satisfying. It is, of course, satisfying in a sad sort of way to finish writing a book too.

Q5. Do you ever read the works of other Teen/YA authors? If yes what can you recommend?

I try not to read too many other teen authors because it is so easy to be

influenced by what someone else has done. Also, the more you look, the more you begin to feel that every subject under the sun has been written about already. I find it easier to be a bit of an ostrich and keep my head under the sand and not in other people's wonderful books. Having said that I thought Meg Rosoff's *The Way I Live Now* was simply superb.

Q6. Are any of your novels based on personal experiences?

I guess everything I write is based on my own experience to some extent, even if it is only the experience of hearing someone else describe something that has happened to him or her. There are certainly some things that I wouldn't attempt to write about without lots of research because I have no first hand knowledge.

Q7. What are you working on at the moment?

I have just finished a 'tween' book for Piccadilly Press about Honeysuckle Lovelace and her Dog Walkers Club. I am also working on a book for young adults about a feisty girl from a very ordinary background who is desperately trying to find a way of shaking up her humdrum existence. This she does eventually manage to do during a stay in Florence.

Q8. Do you ever do Library visits to Teen Reading Groups? If yes, what is the best way to get into contact with your or your agent about it?

I haven't ever done Library visits to Teen Reading Groups but I would very much like to! Best, I think, to contact my agent: Elizabeth Roy

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