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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Commission for Libraries collaborating on national forum for libraries and teens**

BOISE, ID – The American Library Association’s Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) will conduct a yearlong series of National Forum activities to explore the world of young adult library services and ultimately produce a white paper that provides direction on how to adapt these services to better meet the needs of 21st century teens. Invited participants—key stakeholders from libraries, education, technology, adolescent development, and the for-profit and nonprofit sectors—will meet at a summit just prior to the American Library Association 2013 Midwinter Meeting in Seattle and in virtual town hall meetings this spring in an effort to ensure that young adults in the United States continue to receive relevant and necessary services and resources from their libraries.

Erica Compton, an Idaho Commission for Libraries’ project coordinator, is on the National Forum Advisory Board, which will provide guidance on summit planning and content, develop the framework for each town hall session, and review the white paper. “Libraries remain key instruments for ensuring access to relevant programming and resources that enable youth to be civically, economically, culturally, and intellectually engaged,” Compton said. “Now is the time for discussions at the national level about young adults and libraries. Committed parties will work to equalize and revolutionize services to youth and investigate how these important needs can be met in a time of diminishing resources and rapid technological change and application.”

The final white paper will provide a road map for training the next generation of librarians to serve young adults effectively and help libraries of all kinds with programming and resource development. The website for the National Forum on Libraries and Teens is [www.ala.org/yaforum](http://www.ala.org/yaforum).

Grant funding for the National Forum is provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. For more information, visit the Grant Proposal page at <http://www.ala.org/yaforum/call-action-future-library-services-young-adults-national-forum-proposal>.

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The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele. To learn more about ICfL, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>.

The mission of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. See more at <http://www.imls.gov/>.