

# Youth Services: Promoting Health, Inclusion, and Resiliency through Libraries and Library Education

SIG Sponsor(s):

Youth Services SIG (Natalie Greene Taylor, University of South Florida, USA and Rachel M. Magee, University of Illinois Urbana-Campaign, USA)

Presenters:

Dr. Denice Adkins (University of Missouri, USA), Dr. Beth Brendler (University of Missouri, USA), Dr. Bobbie Bushman (Emporia State University, USA), Dr. Maria Cahill (University of Kentucky, USA), and Kerry Townsend (Columbia Public Schools, USA)

## ABSTRACT

The ALISE Youth Services Special Interest Group (SIG) presents a panel that explores the ways in which youth services in libraries support health, inclusion, and youth resiliency. The session will begin with presentations of two papers (25 minutes each), followed by a Q&A. Attendees will then be able to share their own works in progress on these topics. The two presentations include research from Dr. Maria Cahill, Dr. Denice Adkins, and Dr. Bobbie Bushman focusing on library services for young children with disabilities and research from Dr. Denice Adkins, Dr. Beth Brendler, and Kerry Townsend on how school librarians can support youth mental health.

The work of Dr. Cahill, Dr. Adkins, and Dr. Bushman will include a review of the existing literature examining library services for young children with disabilities and/or developmental delays. This review attempts to identify large gaps in the current knowledge base and instigate a call to action for the field. Dr. Adkins, Dr. Brendler, and Dr. Townsend will present preliminary findings from an IMLS-funded, mixed-methods research project, including an introduction to scalable strategies for rural public and school libraries who wish to support community health needs, an example of which is the creation of an elective course offered at the University of Missouri designed to help future librarians support teen mental health through young adult literature.

The COVID-19 pandemic, subsequent interruption to in-person schooling, and existing economic and health inequalities among young people have all served to contribute to an emerging crisis in young people's mental health and disability support services. This presentation and the subsequent attendee discussion will begin to explore the ways that the LIS field can work to address this crisis.

## ALISE RESEARCH TAXONOMY TOPICS

Young adult services; Public libraries; School libraries

## AUTHOR KEYWORDS

Mental health, youth services, disability, public libraries, school libraries, accessibility.