

BCLA: Teens at the Library!

By Lindsay Schluter.

At this year's BCLA Conference, session F23 was all about Teens at the Library! This session was a joint-presentation entitled Why Teens and Librarians Love the Teen Reading Club & By Teens, For Teens: Community-Led Teen Services.

By Teens, For Teens: Community-Led Teen Services

Baharak Yousefi and Randy Gatley first presented on the topic, By Teens, For Teens: Community-Led Teen Services. Baharak is the Acting Teen Librarian at Vancouver Public Library, and Randy is the Assistant Manager of [Teen Services](#) at Vancouver Public Library. They spoke about how VPL has been working together with teens to provide programs and services that reflect their own needs and interests. VPL's Teen Advisory Group has played an active role in generating and implementing teen-focused services. At the same time, VPL has focused on reaching teens that do not already use the library, including at-risk youth. Successful outreach initiatives include Get Carded for Alternative Schools, and work with at-risk youth emerging from the Working Together Project.

Why Teens and Librarians Love the Teen Reading Club

The second half of the session, entitled Why Teens and Librarians Love the Teen Reading Club, was led by Randi Robin and Kate Adams. Randi is a librarian with North Vancouver District Public Library as well as Burnaby Public Library, and Kate works in the Kids' Place department at the Brighthouse Branch of Richmond Public Library. They spoke about the highly successful [Teen Reading Club](#), which is about to enter its sixth year as an online reading club for teens across Canada. This year's theme "Read All About It," is based on the concept of an online newspaper, and will allow teens to post their own reviews of books they've read, as well as actively participate in author chats and discussion forums. At the end of the session, Randi and Kate took the opportunity to interview 3 teens who are active Teen Reading Club participants. The general consensus was that Teen Reading Club is a unique and thriving online community for book-loving teens.

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