

**Arkansas Library Association
Scholarship
Statement of Policy**

The Arkansas Library Association invites applications for the scholarship which it awards each year for graduate study in librarianship.

The following conditions apply:

1. Applicant must hold or be completing work toward a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Applicant must have been accepted at an American Library Association accredited program leading to a master's degree in library science or to an NCATE accredited program leading to a master's degree in library media. For either degree program, the course of study should be completed within three (3) academic years after receipt of the award.
3. Applications will be considered from persons already employed in libraries as well as from other college graduates.
4. The basis of selection of recipients shall be: 1) applicant's interest in librarianship as a profession, 2) academic record, 3) references. Awards are made without regard to race, sex, age, religion, or ethnic background.
5. Recipient must: 1) be a legal resident of the State of Arkansas, 2) accept professional employment in an Arkansas library or in a library related position within one year after completing graduate program, 3) continue to work in an Arkansas library or in a library related position for at least one year in a capacity commensurate with his/her training and education after accepting such employment, 4) maintain membership in the Arkansas Library Association for at least the year of required employment in an Arkansas library or library related position.
6. Scholarship recipients will be required to sign a promissory note agreeing to repay the Association the amount of the scholarship unless the conditions set out herein are completed.
7. Applicants currently enrolled in a program of study must submit to the Arkansas Library Association an official graduate transcript. Applicants just beginning a program of study must submit proof of enrollment.
8. Applicants must submit the application form, a letter of application, a resume, and three letters of reference from individuals qualified to address the academic and professional potential of the candidate.
9. Application forms may be obtained from Michael Strickland, Scholarship Chair, Arkansas State Library, One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201; online at <http://www.arlib.org>; or by calling 501-682-1969. **Completed form must be returned by September 1.**
10. The Scholarship Committee of the Association reserves the right to make no award.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

Since 1964 the Arkansas Library Association has awarded 30 grants of \$500, \$750, and \$1,000 to enable recipients to earn masters degrees in library science at American Library Association accredited graduate schools. Through the awarding of these grants, the Association hopes to encourage a higher standard of professional training in Arkansas libraries. Recipients agree to return to work for at least one year in Arkansas libraries. Many of those who have received the grants are still working in the state and are leaders in the work of the Association.

FUNDING

Funding for the early grants came largely from the regular income of the Association, although various fund raising projects have been undertaken through the years. However, the Scholarship Fund should be self-supporting and not dependent upon the fluctuations of the Association's income. To be self-supporting, annual donations must exceed \$1,000. The goal of the Association is to amass adequate funds in an account so that the grants may be awarded annually from the interest earned on the principal. The scholarship program is largely dependent upon donations from Association members.

LONG RANGE GOAL

As a long range goal, the Scholarship Committee is striving to amass a fund principal that will support a scholarship in a larger amount or will support the awarding of two scholarships annually, as was done in the 1960's and 1970's.

RECOGNITION OF DONATIONS

Contributors who make donation to the scholarship fund during pre-registration or at the annual conference receive a special sticker for their conference badge which recognizes their contribution.

In addition, anyone making a single contribution of \$75 or more will be awarded a simulated leather correspondence folder embossed with gold inscription signifying "patron" status.

Contributions to the fund are a great way to recognize good work and say "thank you" for service or support from trustees, patrons, or friends.

Contributions may be made "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" your designee. They will be acknowledged both to the donor and to the designee or designee's family.

Contributions to the fund of \$500 or more given by or for one person/group will be recognized by inscription on a plaque which is regularly displayed in the office and at the annual conference.