



Illinois Library Association

ILA Committee and Forum Reports

This form is to be completed by committee chairs/forum managers in collaboration with board liaisons. The ILA Executive Board will meet on the following dates in 2020-21: 9/24/20, 12/3/20, 3/25/21, and 5/20/21. Reports should be submitted **two weeks before each board meeting** to the board and staff liaison (liaisons are listed on rosters at <http://www.ila.org/about/committees> or <http://www.ila.org/forums>) and the ILA office (email: ila@ila.org).

Committee or Forum: Awards Committee

Report completed by: Jamie Jones

Date: 5/12/21

Activities underway or completed since the last report:

We've completed our review of association-wide award language and written up a report of recommended changes for the Executive Board's consideration. We also have heard back from the Youth Services Forum with proposed changes to two of their awards. All proposed changes will be attached in the email containing this report.

Projected activities/initiatives during the upcoming months:

We will be reviewing this year's award nominations very soon! The deadline for new submissions is May 15. We will meet in June to discuss those submissions and select the 2021 award winners.

After that, we will prepare for the virtual 2021 ILA Awards ceremony, of course, and have proposed other possible projects to tackle in the 2021-2022 committee year, including designing templates both for new award proposals and for award nominations. We also discussed some new ideas for promoting the ILA recognition program, such as a shareable image design that award winners can showcase on their library website or in newsletters. The committee might also ask award winners to provide short quotes regarding what their award win means to them; these quotes could then be used to promote the awards program to others.

Intended outcome/goals of project(s):

Streamlining and simplifying the award nomination process to potentially increase nominations.
Promoting the award program in new and different ways.

Anticipated timeline(s) and completion date(s) for each project:

Award recipients will be selected in June 2021

2021 ILA Virtual Award Ceremony will take place in October 2021, as usual

Award/nomination templates and new promotional activities will begin after October's ceremony, with project completion dates solidifying at that time.

Activities should be designed to advance the ILA Strategic Plan. Which strategic goal areas are best addressed by the activities above? Check all that apply and describe briefly how the activities will advance the goal(s). View the full plan at <http://www.ila.org/about/strategic-plan>.

Goal area: Advocacy—Legislative Advocacy

Goal area: Advocacy—Community Advocacy

Goal area: A Culture of Diversity and Inclusion—In the Profession

Goal area: A Culture of Diversity and Inclusion—In the Association

Goal area: Delivery of Member Value

Goal area: Leadership

Questions or concerns that need to be addressed by the ILA Executive Board (**please discuss with your board or staff liaison first. Board liaisons can help with strategic, programmatic, policy-related and content-related questions; staff liaisons can help with procedural or business-related questions**):

THANK YOU for your service to ILA and Illinois librarianship!

Dear ILA Executive Board members,

Since its successful execution of the first virtual ILA Awards Ceremony last October, the 2020-2021 Awards Committee's main objective has been to review the language used to describe the awards under its purview in order to make them more precise and inclusive. We hope these changes will help attract a more diverse pool of candidates by making it easier for potential nominators—particularly first-time nominators and those otherwise unfamiliar with the ILA recognition program—to identify when someone they know is eligible for one of the awards, and to pinpoint which award is the best match to increase their nomination's chance of success. Indeed, as anyone working in Illinois libraries knows, there is so much outstanding, award-worthy work being done. The Awards Committee wants to do all in its power to make sure this work is given the recognition it deserves!

The review process was simple. The committee assessed all text associated with the association-wide awards. We also reached out to all committees and forums in charge of their own awards to request that they do the same. As a result of this review, we would like to propose some alterations to the ILA Executive Board today. The Youth Services Forum also provided a write-up of changes that they would like to make to their awards, the Youth Services Achievement Award (formerly the Golden Ticket Award) and the Youth Services Librarian of the Year. These write-ups will be attached along with our report.

Much like the overall process, most of the proposed edits are simple and specific to the award for which they are aimed. Such changes are numbered and have a corresponding explanatory note after the text of each individual award. However, there are some general changes the committee would like to propose for all association-wide awards in the interest of standardizing the format. These across-the-board changes are to:

- Change the "Category" heading to "Purpose" - The committee found that many of our discussions – and potential nominators' confusion – revolved around what we perceived as the core aim or intent of each award. As a result of these discussions, we felt that "purpose" may be a clearer term in the context of these awards.
- Standardize the language used in the "Criteria" portion of each award – The committee felt that making the language surrounding the unique criteria for each award as similar as possible would help to narrow the focus on the criteria itself, eliminating possible "noise" created by the language around it.

Please read on to see the full proposed changes! The document that follows contains the text found on the ILA site for each award, with all proposed changes (including the general ones indicated above) marked in red text.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration! We are happy to work with any feedback the Executive Board provides.

Sincerely,

Jamie Jones

2020-2021 ILA Awards Committee Chair

HUGH C. ATKINSON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR INTERLIBRARY COOPERATION¹

Presented by Illinois Library Association and the ILA Awards Committee in honor of Hugh C. Atkinson (1933–1986). Due in large part to his influence, Illinois garnered national recognition in statewide interlibrary cooperation. The award is supported by the Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Fund and by the Valerie J. Wilford Memorial Fund established in recognition of her enormous contributions to multi-type cooperation and resource sharing.

Purpose

The award shall be made annually for sustained activity and contributions having a lasting impact on librarianship, **in regards to resource sharing and/or interlibrary cooperation²**. The recipient may be an individual, a group, a program, or an institution.

Eligibility

The award recipient must meet the criteria outlined. Individuals need not be librarians or ILA members, nor groups associated with ILA or with any specific library organization. Programs may have originated in any institution or organization with or without library affiliation, and an award-winning organization may be a library, a library system or consortium, or a non-library organization.

Criteria

The nominee's contribution(s) to interlibrary cooperation and resource sharing may take the form of:

- evidence of a sustained **resource sharing or interlibrary cooperative effort²** over a period of years;
- contribution should be of a permanent quality; and
- performance should serve as a model for similar programs.
- The written statement of support should be based on the above criteria. Attach newspaper clippings or other forms of documentation, if available, to this application.

The written nomination statement should support **one or more** of the applicable criteria. Attach any supporting documentation.

Award Winners

The recipient will receive a certificate, a \$1,000 financial award, and have their name added to the plaque at the Illinois State Library.

Please note that monetary award amounts are subject to change without notice and are contingent upon sponsor funding supplied at the time the award is presented.

Nomination Submissions

The nominator's statement of support should address all criteria under the individual awards as outlined. Nominator must submit the nomination form and attach all support statements, letters, and documentation, etc., required by the award's criteria. ILA must receive all nominations by May 15.

Explanation of proposed changes:

1. The Awards Committee hopes that a more descriptive title will help potential nominators/nominees (particularly first-time nominators or those otherwise unfamiliar with the ILA recognition program) identify which award applies to their situation.
2. By adding these descriptive phrases (in addition to the proposed award name change), the committee intends to eliminate confusion it has encountered with nominations in the past as to whether this award is for sustained impact on librarianship in general (i.e. a legacy-type award) or for impact on interlibrary cooperation more specifically. Given the award's namesake, we believe the award purpose is geared specifically on resource sharing and library cooperation projects.

CROSMAN MEMORIAL AWARD FOR NEW LIBRARY WORKERS¹

Presented by the ILA Awards Committee and [Dominican University SOIS](#) in memory of Alex Crosman, director of the Peoria Public Library until his death in 1986. Crosman was instrumental in forming the Junior Members Round Table in Illinois.

Purpose

This award recognizes the achievements of the library workers who are new or relatively new to the field and encourages continued involvement in the profession. Other awards honor those who have accomplished a great deal over a long period of time; this award is to honor people who have accomplished a great deal in a short time.

Eligibility

- Open to those who have been in the library field or profession for ten years or less (**MLS not required**)²
- Open to individuals working in all types of libraries.
- Individuals may nominate themselves or be nominated by others.
- ILA Awards Committee members are not eligible for the award.
- Nominee must be a personal member of ILA or be employed at an institution that is an ILA member.

Criteria

The nominee's contribution(s) to Illinois libraries as a new library worker may take the form of:

- why the nominee deserves the award (in 200 words or less)
- involvement and contributions to the library field
- involvement in the community or institution served by the nominee's library
- memberships and offices in professional or related organizations;
- honors **or recognition** received;
- two professional **references**³ including names, addresses, and phone numbers

The written nomination statement should support **one or more** of the applicable criteria. Attach any supporting documentation.

Award Winners

The recipient will be presented with a certificate and a \$200 financial award.

Please note that monetary award amounts are subject to change without notice and are contingent upon sponsor funding supplied at the time the award is presented.

Nomination Submissions

The nominator's statement of support should address all criteria under the individual awards as outlined. Nominator must submit the nomination form and attach all support statements, letters, and documentation, etc. required by the award's criteria. ILA must receive all nominations by May 15.

Explanation of changes:

1. The Awards Committee hopes that a more descriptive title will help potential nominators/nominees (particularly first-time nominators or those otherwise unfamiliar with the ILA recognition program) identify which award applies to their situation.
2. Clarifying that library workers need not be degreed librarians to be eligible for this award
3. Adding a few words into the criteria list to clarify the form that applicable criteria may take.

LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Presented by the Illinois Library Association and [Today's Business Solutions Inc.](#)

Purpose

This award recognizes a librarian's distinguished service in Illinois libraries. Generally, the librarian so honored will have made an impact locally, statewide, and nationally. However, if an individual's service is unusually outstanding on one level, the nomination can rest on that area alone. Librarians so honored will have demonstrated a commitment to libraries, and especially Illinois libraries, which can serve as a model for others in the profession.

Eligibility

The eligible librarian is any professional staff member of an Illinois library. The recipient must be a personal ILA member or be employed at an institution that is an ILA member.

Criteria

The nominee's contribution(s) to outstanding library service may take the form of:

- active membership and/or role in ILA, as evidenced by attendance at conference and workshops, participation on ILA committees or forums, or other support of the association;
- positive contributions to the library field, such as research, publications, innovative program development, etc.; and
- outstanding work on a particular aspect of library service in the home library of the nominee, e.g., grant award, successful referendum for tax or bonds for library construction, outstanding public relations program, etc.
- list of references

The written nomination statement should support **two or more** of the applicable criteria. Attach any supporting documentation. Please include a list of references, rather than additional letters of support.

One or more awards may be presented.

Award Winners

The recipient will receive a certificate and a \$500 financial award.

Please note that monetary award amounts are subject to change without notice and are contingent upon sponsor funding supplied at the time the award is presented.

Nomination Submissions

The nominator's statement of support should address all criteria under the individual awards as outlined. Nominator must submit the nomination form and attach all support statements, letters, and documentation, etc. required by the award's criteria. ILA must receive all nominations by May 15.

Explanation of proposed changes: none beyond the standard ones mentioned in the introductory letter (Purpose heading and standard Criteria wording)

DEBORAH DOWLEY PREISER MARKETING AWARD

Presented by the Illinois Library Association and the [Oak Park Public Library](#).

Purpose

This award recognizes a library employee or group whose excellent work in marketing over a period of several years reflects the importance of publicity **for¹ adult programming, given that library programming is¹** central to the role of the library as a community center and to the library as a place.

Eligibility²

- Membership in ILA or employment at an ILA institutional member.
- Employment in an Illinois library.

Criteria²

The nominee's contribution(s) to library marketing or public relations may take the form of:

- Involvement in library public relations and adult programming at the ILA and in other local/regional/national forums.
- Continuing production of exciting and innovative public relation activities for adult programming.
- Demonstrated success at a level that is recognized as exemplary over a period of years in **library marketing or public relations.**¹
- Nominee is considered a role model by virtue of deeds, actions, ideas, and examples.

The written nomination statement should support **one or more** of the applicable criteria. Attach any supporting documentation.

Award Winners

Recipient will receive a certificate and a \$250 financial award.

Please note that monetary award amounts are subject to change without notice and are contingent upon sponsor funding supplied at the time the award is presented.

Nomination Submissions

The nominator's statement of support should address all criteria under the individual awards as outlined. Nominator must submit the nomination form and attach all support statements,

letters, and documentation, etc. required by the award's criteria. ILA must receive all nominations by May 15.

Explanation of changes:

1. Despite its fairly descriptive award title, the committee was concerned that some of this award's original phrasing could confuse potential nominators as to whether it pertains to those creating adult programming or those marketing it. We realize that one person may wear both of those proverbial hats but hope to clarify that this award is meant for those spreading awareness of library adult programming (like its namesake), thereby increasing the success and impact of such programming on the library's community.
2. The committee proposes splitting apart the eligibility and criteria sections of this award language, both to make the overall format consistent with the other association-wide awards, and to make eligibility and criteria more easily identifiable for potential nominators.

REFERENCE SERVICES AWARD

Presented by the ILA Awards Committee and [Ancel, Glink](#).

Purpose

This award recognizes excellence in providing assistance to library users as they seek and use information.

Eligibility

Nominees can be an individual, group, department, or library. The nominee should be a personal ILA member or be employed by an institution that is an ILA member. The ILA Awards Committee selects the recipient.

Criteria

The nominee's contribution(s) to reference services may take the form of:

- Specialized or innovative programs or services;
- Service to the library profession through active participation in professional organizations (at the local, state, or national level);
- The nominee has influenced and/or cooperated with persons or organizations within his/her community in the planning or presenting of programs or services for; and
- The nominee has reached and affected persons outside his/her own community by deed, idea, and/or example.

The written nomination statement should support **one or more** of the applicable criteria. Attach any supporting documentation.

Award Winners

The recipient will receive a certificate and a \$250 check.

Please note that monetary award amounts are subject to change without notice and are contingent upon sponsor funding supplied at the time the award is presented.

Nomination Submissions

The nominator's statement of support should address all criteria under the individual awards as outlined. Nominator must submit the nomination form and attach all support statements,

letters, and documentation, etc. required by the award's criteria. ILA must receive all nominations by May 15.

Explanation of proposed changes: none beyond the standard ones mentioned in the introductory letter (Purpose heading and standard Criteria wording)

ALEXANDER J. SKRZYPEK AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES¹

Presented by the ILA Awards Committee and the [Illinois State Library](#) in honor of Alexander J. Skrzypek (1905-1976), the first librarian **for people with print disabilities²** at the Chicago Public Library. Skrzypek's career in libraries began in 1919 as a part time page and he was named head librarian for **people with print disabilities²** in 1952. The award is sponsored by the [Illinois State Library](#).

Purpose

The award is given to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of library services for **people with print or other disabilities²** in Illinois.

Eligibility

Nominees can be any individual or group helping to expand library service to people with disabilities in Illinois. They do not need to be employed by an Illinois library.³

Criteria

The nominee's contribution(s) to advancing library services for people with disabilities² may take the form of:

- an imaginative innovation in **services, whether local, regional, or statewide;**
- **trailblazing a concept or function within their role that improves library services to people with disabilities;⁴**
- a recognized contribution to the Illinois program of service for **people with disabilities²;**
- an innovative public awareness campaign, which stimulated growth in local or statewide library services;
- a significant publication or writing in the field;
- the efforts of boards and libraries to follow/comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA); or
- any activity of recognized importance in the field.

The written nomination statement should support **one or more** of the applicable criteria. Attach any supporting documentation.

Award Winners

The recipient will receive a certificate and have their name added to the plaque at the Illinois State Library.

Nomination Submissions

The nominator's statement of support should address all criteria under the individual awards as outlined. Nominator must submit the nomination form and attach all support statements, letters, and documentation, etc. required by the award's criteria. ILA must receive all nominations by May 15.

Explanation of changes:

1. The Awards Committee hopes that a more descriptive title will help potential nominators/nominees (particularly first-time nominators or those otherwise unfamiliar with the ILA recognition program) identify which award applies to their situation.
2. Updating language to use person-first terminology throughout this award text.
3. Unlike all of the other association-wide awards, this award did not originally have a specific "Eligibility" section. We would like to add one to explicitly state that this award is not limited to ILA members or Illinois library staff; it has in fact often been awarded to outside specialists working with libraries to provide unique services for community members with disabilities.
4. Awards Committee members were concerned that the original criteria might not be inclusive to all people making a difference to library services to people with disabilities. We hoped to add some language indicating that innovations do not need to be extreme or "flashy"; sometimes small innovations at any level can make great impact on services!

VALERIE J. WILFORD SCHOLARSHIP GRANT FOR LIBRARY EDUCATION

Presented by Illinois Library Association and the ILA Awards Committee in honor of Valerie Wilford (1939-2016). As a teacher and mentor to hundreds of librarians, Valerie Wilford made enormous contributions to school librarianship, multi-type cooperation, and resource sharing in Illinois. This award is supported by the Valerie J. Wilford Memorial Fund.

Purpose

Scholarship grant for the pursuit of education in librarianship; the scholarship may be used for a graduate or undergraduate class, a class in an LTA program, registration fees for a workshop, webinar, seminar, conference, or other educational opportunities.

Eligibility

Applicants must be personal members of ILA or AISLE, or another Illinois state library association; or staff at an ILA institutional member library. The award will be given to an individual or group that has made the most successful case for an educational event that will enhance the group or individual's ability to promote multi-type cooperation. There will be only one award per person or group.

Criteria

To be considered for this award, the activity must be participation in an educational opportunity. This may be a graduate, undergraduate, or LTA class or another continuing education activity such as workshop or conference attendance. The reimbursable amount is up to \$1000. The activity should take place, or have taken place, in the calendar year in which the award is announced. If it has already taken place and the applicant seeks reimbursement, evidence of completion should be included in the application. If it has not taken place by the application deadline of May 15, reimbursement will be contingent upon the successful applicant's provision of evidence of completion.

Scholarship Recipient

Scholarship vouchers entitling successful applicants to reimbursement of legitimate expenses related to the activity (registration/tuition fees, travel expenses, meals, lodging, materials required for activity, or substitute fees) will be presented. The reimbursable amount is up to \$1000.

The recipient will also be invited and recognized at the awards lunch held during the ILA Annual Conference.

Application Submissions

Applicants may apply for either a specific or anticipated activity throughout the year. Application submission opens up in January and the deadline to submit is May 15.

Explanation of proposed changes: none beyond general change of "Category" heading to "Purpose." The general Criteria change did not seem applicable in the context of this scholarship award.

Youth Services Achievement Award

Category

Formerly the Golden Ticket Award, this annual award is presented to a non-degreed (MLIS) individual working in the Youth Services Department who has made an outstanding contribution in library services to young people in his/her community by creating and implementing library programs and/ or initiatives that promote a love of learning and positively impacts the lives of children.

Eligibility

The recipient should be a non-degreed (MLIS) individual working directly with children in an Illinois library setting. Individuals may nominate themselves or be nominated by others. Nominees need not be a personal member of ILA. Current members of the Youth Services Forum are ineligible for this award and may not submit a nomination.

Criteria

The nomination should consist of the completed ILA nomination form and a written statement of no more than four pages. The written statement should include:

- Examples of innovative and dynamic programs, outreach efforts, services or collection development for youth up to eighth grade, initiated and presented by nominee within the past two years
- How such programs and initiatives have benefited the library and its community
- Why the nominee deserves this award

Optional: A maximum of three pages of supporting pictures and a maximum of five promotional flyers may also be included.

Award

The recipient will receive a one-year personal membership to ILA (if already a personal member, he/she will receive a free one-year renewal of his/her membership), and a \$200 financial award.

Please note that monetary award amounts are subject to change without notice and are contingent upon sponsor funding supplied at the time the award is presented.

Nomination Deadline

May 15

Nomination Submissions

The nominator's statement of support should address all criteria under the individual awards as outlined. Nominator must submit the nomination form and attach all support statements,

letters, and documentation, etc. required by the award's criteria. ILA must receive all nominations by May 15.

Youth Services Librarian of the Year

Presented by the ILA Youth Services Forum and [ABDO](#) to honor Marion Davis for her active role in services to children at the Des Plaines Public Library and beyond. Often serving as mentor to children's librarians in the area, Davis was a storyteller extraordinaire, making this oral tradition a link with people, young and old.

Review the Criteria and Eligibility below.

Category

This annual award is presented to a librarian serving in the state of Illinois who has made an outstanding contribution in library service to young people. Since its inception in 1971, the award has been presented to individuals who exemplify resourcefulness, professionalism and caring in their service to young people.

Eligibility

The recipient must be a personal ILA member or be employed at an institution that is an ILA member. The recipient must be a degreed (MLS or MLIS) librarian currently serving children and/or families in a public or school library. A retired librarian may be nominated within the year following retirement. The nominator need not be a degreed librarian. Current members of the Youth Services Forum are ineligible for this award and may not submit a nomination.

Criteria

The nomination should consist of the completed ILA nomination form and a written statement. The statement should be no more than four pages, demonstrating with specific examples how the individual meets the following criteria. A maximum of three references may be included. The criteria for consideration are:

- specialized or innovative programs or services for young people initiated by the nominee;
- service to the library profession through active participation in professional organizations (at the local, state, or national level), the training of others, publishing, etc.;
- the nominee has influenced and/or cooperated with persons and organizations within his/her community in the planning or presenting of programs or services for young people; and
- the nominee has reached and affected persons outside his/her own community by deed, idea, and/or example.

- The nominee is a degreed (MLS or MLIS) librarian currently serving youth in a public or school library.

Award Winners

The recipient will be presented an engraved Revere bowl and a \$300 financial award.

Please note that monetary award amounts are subject to change without notice and are contingent upon donor funding supplied at the time the award is presented.

Nomination Deadline

May 15

Nomination Submissions

The nominator's statement of support should address all criteria under the individual awards as outlined. Nominator must submit the nomination form and attach all support statements, letters, and documentation, etc. required by the award's criteria. ILA must receive all nominations by May 15.