

## MLS SCHOLARSHIPS & CONFERENCE GRANTS

by Kristi Brumley

There are hundreds of scholarships and grants available for students pursuing an MLS. Use this list as a starting point and be sure to take the extra time to research, ask questions, and write thoughtful essays.

Start planning how you will pay for your degree by reading *How to Pay for Your Degree in Library & Information Studies*. This publication provides detailed, up-to-date information on 800 scholarships, loans, grants, awards, and other funding opportunities for students.

- Schlachter, Gail, and Weber, R. David. (2010). *How to Pay for Your Degree in Library & Information Studies*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press.

Ready to apply for a scholarship? Here are some excellent options to consider:

- Idaho Library Association (ILA): Gardner Hanks Scholarship and ILA Scholarship. <http://www.idaholibraries.org/awards>
- Idaho Commission for Libraries: Library Services and Technology (LSTA) Continuing Education Grants. <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/lsta-library-services-technology>
- Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS): Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program - Scholarships for Master's Level Programs.

Search for schools that offer scholarships by selecting: Grant Recipients/ Search our database of grant recipients or Grant Search/ Grant Name: Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program

- American Library Association (ALA): <http://www.ala.org/ala/educationcareers/scholarships/index.cfm>
- Don't forget to check with your employer, Friends of the Library, and your university for scholarship opportunities.
- Federal government student loans are also a great way to finance your education. Go to <http://www.direct.ed.gov/>
- Scholarship Search Sites. The sites ask a series of questions to develop profiles that are then used to match students with scholarships.

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)  
[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)  
[www.apps.collegeboard.com/](http://www.apps.collegeboard.com/) (click on Pay for College)

## Conference attendance grants

ALA conference attendance grants:

Upcoming American Library Association (ALA) Conferences:

2012 Midwinter Meeting, Dallas, TX: January 20-24, 2012

2012 Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA: June 21-26, 2012

2013 Midwinter Meeting, Seattle, WA: January 25 - 29, 2013

2013 Annual Conference, Chicago, IL: June 27 - July 2, 2013

- First-time conference attendance grant.
- <http://libraries.idaho.gov/doc/continuing-education-first-time-attendance-application>
- 2013 ALA Emerging Leaders program - ILA will fund \$1,000 for one Emerging Leader to attend the Midwinter and the Annual conference. Apply in by June 2012.
- <http://www.idaholibraries.org/node/676>
- 2013 ALA Emerging Leaders program - ALA will fund Emerging Leaders to attend the Midwinter and the Annual conference. Apply in by July 2012.
- <http://www.ala.org/ala/educationcareers/leadership/emergingleaders/index.cfm>
- 2012 Student to Staff Program (40 library students selected)
- <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/affiliates/chapters/student/resources/studenttostaffprogram.cfm>
- 3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant
- Shirley Olofson Memorial Award
- EBSCO Conference Sponsorship

Idaho Library Association and other association conference attendance grants:

- First-time conference attendance grant.
- <http://libraries.idaho.gov/doc/continuing-education-first-time-attendance-application>
- Don't forget to check with your employer, Friends of the Library, and your university for scholarship opportunities.