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.


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


• 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
Conference attendance grants

ALA conference attendance grants:

Upcoming American Library Association (ALA) Conferences:
2012 Midwinter Meeting, Dallas, TX: January 20-24, 2012
2013 Annual Conference, Chicago, IL: June 27 - July 2, 2013

• First-time conference attendance grant.

• 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.al.org/ala/educationcareers/leadership/emergingleaders/index.cfm

• 2012 Student to Staff Program (40 library students selected)
  http://www.al.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.

• Don’t forget to check with your employer, Friends of the Library, and your university for scholarship opportunities.