

Updated 2015

MLS SCHOLARSHIPS & CONFERENCE GRANTS

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Are you or someone you know considering continuing education in the Library and Information Studies field? If you haven't obtained your degree, visit the American Library Association's webpage with suggestions for selecting an accredited program that meets your needs and professional interests. These guidelines can be found at <http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/guidelines-choosing-masters-program-library-and-information-studies>

Once you have chosen your path to education, you may wish to seek out financial assistance to reach your goals. There are hundreds of scholarships and grants available for students pursuing an MLS. Use this list as a starting point, and take the extra time to research, ask questions, and write thoughtful essays.

Start planning how you will pay for your degree by reviewing "Financial Assistance for Library and Information Studies," an annual report by the American Library Association. This publication provides information on financial aid provided by state library agencies and associations, educational institutions as well as local libraries, updated for each academic year. This document also includes financial assistance opportunities for residents of Canada and Puerto Rico. Further, this report lists national and regional awards and grants to be used for advancing library services or for continuing education.

- Redd, Kimberly L. 2014. "Financial Assistance for Library & Information Studies." *Ala.org*
<http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/education/financialassistance>

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

- Idaho Library Association (ILA): Gardner Hanks Scholarship and ILA Scholarship. <http://idaholibraries.org/about-us/officersdivisionscommittees/professional-recognition-awards-and-educational-scholarships/>
- Idaho Commission for Libraries: Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Continuing Education Grants. <http://libraries.idaho.gov/icfl-funding-libraries>
- [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 offer another option 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

www.scholarships.com

www.petersons.com

<https://www.collegeboard.org/> (click on College Planning > Pay for College)

Conference attendance grants

Upcoming American Library Association (ALA) Conferences:

2015 Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA: June 25-30

2016 Midwinter Meeting, Boston, MA: January 22-26

2016 Public Library Association (PLA) Conference, Denver, CO: April 5-9

2016 Annual Conference, Orlando, FL: June 23-28

ALA conference attendance grants:

- First-time conference attendance grant through ICfL.
http://libraries.idaho.gov/conference_grants
- ALA Emerging Leaders program. Applications accepted and awarded each year. Find out more at <http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/leadership/emergingleaders>
- ALA Student to Staff program
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/affiliates/chapters/student/resources/studenttostaffprogram.cfm>
- 3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant
- Shirley Olofson Memorial Award
- EBSCO Conference Sponsorship