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ALA 2013 Scholarship Online Application Now Available

The American Library Association (ALA) has more than $300,000 for students who are studying library science or school librarianship at the master's degree level.

Scholarships typically range from $1,500 to $7,000 per student per year. The application and instructions are available online. The application deadline is March 1, 2013.

There are many types of scholarships available for the study of librarianship. These include scholarships for students who are interested in Children's Librarianship, Youth Librarianship, Federal Librarianship, new media and Library Automation.

In addition, there are also scholarships available for minorities, persons with disabilities and for people who are already employed in libraries but do not have an MLS.

To be considered for one of these scholarships, applicants must attend a master's degree program in library and information science that has been accredited by the ALA. Applicants interested in school librarianship must attend a program that meets ALA curriculum guidelines for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Complete guidelines and instructions are available on the website.

The scholarship process is open annually from October through March. More information is available online or by calling the ALA Scholarship Clearinghouse at (800) 545-2433, ext. 4279.
INTERVIEW TIPS FOR INTROVERTS


Sometimes it seems that most of the business world—and much of our lives for that matter—are designed for the extraverts among us. Our extraverted friends seem to have an inherent advantage when it comes to hosting and attending events, meeting new people and networking, and... interviewing. Consider the following:

- Introverts prefer to listen, but a successful interview is when you are doing most of the talking.
- The face-to-face nature of the interview demands quick responses. Extraverts will have an answer for almost any question. Introverts like to think before they speak, and may come off as slow, indecisive, deceitful, or unaware of their strengths and abilities.
- Extraverts become energized with people around, while introverts just become exhausted. This can affect both mental energy and enthusiasm, especially in longer multi-round interviews.

But Consider the Advantages Too!

Though it seems extraverts would have an advantage in an interview, there are certain aspects of the process that benefit introverts. In fact, some of the same things that are a disadvantage can also become an advantage. For example:

- Introverts think (a lot) before they speak. This is an opportunity to present yourself well.
- You are better at being concise therefore you are much less likely to ramble on and on off topic.
- Introverts will have an easier time focusing the conversation to go in a desired direction. If you know what information you want to share ahead of time, you will likely remember it and bring it up.

Tips for Performing Your Best at Your Next Interview

1. Schedule a day of introspection. Think about your career, your goals, and your past experiences. Organize your achievements, accolades, and work samples. Consider drawing a diagram, writing an article about your career, or simply putting together a portfolio. Even if you never show it to anyone, it can help you organize your thoughts in a way that can be communicated quickly and easily.

2. Take advantage of your preference for written communication. Go one step further and actually present that diagram, work sample, portfolio, or website to the person interviewing you. You never know, they might be an introvert as well.

3. Memorize the things you want to say, but stay conversational. This can often be the introvert’s biggest weakness in an interview—an awkward conversation will leave a negative impression. One way to make it less so is to practice telling stories. Another is instead of asking your questions toward the end of the interview, ask them throughout as you give your answers.

4. Don’t forget about body language. Extraverts tend to be naturally expressive which often comes across as enthusiastic. Find a way to show you are excited about the position—smile, lean forward, laugh. Don’t try to hide nervousness by distancing your emotions. Do reframe your nervousness as excitement—same physical signs, but a different mental outlook.
PHOTO COLLAGE: MIZZOU ALUM AT LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES

From top left: Julee Hector—Gere Branch manager—promoting the Lincoln City Libraries at Streets Alive. Top Right: Jodene Glaesemann—Walt Branch Manager—showing off her style. Bottom Left: Kathryn Kelley—Public Services Librarian at Bennett Martin Library-posing with the giant library card. Bottom Right: Lincoln City Libraries logo.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Garren Hochstetler

What is your education/library/professional background?

After picking up a B.A. in Linguistics from Iowa State University in 2002, I moved to Nebraska and became an apprentice network administrator. I’ve set up and maintained systems top to bottom for lobbyists, chiropractors, metal manufacturers, and quite a few small businesses in between. When I turned thirty, I did some serious thinking about my future career and decided I wanted to focus less on running systems and more on connecting people with the resources and skills that will make a difference in their lives beyond the bottom line. I’m soaking in library theory in class and working on open source skills at home in preparation for a library apprenticeship in the medium-term.

What is on your reading list? What are your favorites/your recommended/your want to read lists?

If you haven’t discovered the audio lectures in The Great Courses series or LibriVox’s public domain readings of public domain works, you’re in for a treat! I especially recommend John Finn’s course: Civil Liberties and the Bill of Rights. Audio not your thing? Sci-fi and fantasy fans absolutely must check out Ted Chiang’s Stories of Your Life And Others and Gene Wolfe’s The Shadow of the Torturer.

What is on your professional reading list?

I recommend skimming all the new article titles in the LISTA database each month. My best find so far has been Evert Nijhof’s “Searching? Or actually trying to find something? – The comforts of searching versus the challenges of finding” from World Patent Information, 33(4). It provides a useful dichotomy for thinking about search strategies.

What do you do in your *down time*? Do you have any hobbies? How do you relax?

Aside from the usual books and Netflix, I often have a burning need to write articles on technology, law, ethics, philosophy of knowledge, and whatever else is on my mind. Feel free to visit my blog at wordsideasandthings.blogspot.com.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I’ve watched the entirety of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, twice.

Name one of your personal or professional qualities that will make you a leader in 21st century library and information centers.

My practical IT experience has given me a willingness to try new things without falling for hype. I deeply appreciate William Inge’s aphorism: "There are two kinds of fools: one says, ‘This is old, therefore it is good’; the other says, ‘This is new, therefore it is better.’"

What advice do you have for other students who are currently enrolled in Library Science studies? The #1 most important thing you should learn about computers is how to back up personal data, wipe the drive clean, and reinstall everything. Besides being a useful skill in itself, you will gain a level of comfort and understanding that you’ll never reach otherwise. And it’s absolutely okay to ask a techie to backseat drive the first time through.

What do you see as key future trends and challenges for Library Information Specialists?

By the mid 22nd century, I predict the full adoption of a national or international digital library; everyone will have free access to almost all digital media. We are living in the transitional period. Libraries need to accept their diminishing role as a provider of free books and advocate the heck out of their roles as community centers and information guides. Unfortunately, we’re already seeing public attitudes here in Lincoln along the lines of, "Why invest in libraries when everyone I know has an e-reader?" It’s a scary question that deserves top priority.

What do you think will be your legacy in this profession?

I’m hoping for a legacy of helping a long list of other people improve the quality of their lives. This may come in the form of accurate information, imaginative fiction, or inspirational thoughts; all are vital to human experience. I would also like to help solve current issues in intellectual freedom. As a student, I was at the center of a school library censorship controversy in the early 90s and believe there are ways to make the status quo less volatile by addressing some of the underlying concerns that motivate objectors to file complaints and demonize librarians.

What is your favorite quote?

"'tis usual for men to use words for ideas, and to talk instead of thinking in their reasonings.” — David Hume, A Treatise of Human Nature, I.II.V.
DON'T FORGET MIZZOU!

As Missouri students you are eligible to fill out the Missouri Application for Graduate Scholarships. By submitting a completed Application for Graduate Scholarships, you will be considered for over 100 scholarships available through the University of Missouri College of Education.

The 2011-2012 application will be available to download on November 1, 2010, and completed applications are due March 1, 2011. This is a great opportunity to fund your education, so don’t miss out!

For more information and to download the application form, visit: http://education.missouri.edu/academics/financial_aid/scholarships-graduate.php

There is funding available for students pursuing library studies. Please take advantage of these opportunities. These scholarships are waiting to be snapped up by deserving students like you. Please make the decision to apply. Your educational journey is worthwhile, but it’s not free. Let NLC, NLA, and NEMA help!

For Nebraska School Librarians Association Scholarships, visit: https://sites.google.com/site/neschoollibrariansassociation/nsla-scholarships

For Nebraska Library Commission Scholarships, visit: http://nlc1.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/Scholarships/ScholarshipInfo.asp#apply

The new deadline for this scholarship is June 1, 2012

Nebraska Library Association Scholarships
http://nebraskalibraries.org/member-resources/scholarships/

EMLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

It’s important for all of our students to keep up with the current library job postings. You never know when your “perfect” job might come along. We regularly send out an email with the current postings. Please read these! Even if you’re not looking for a job, you may see something that you want to pass on to a classmate or colleague. In addition to reading these emails, take the initiative to check the website periodically. We only send out Nebraska postings, but you can view regional postings by accessing the website.

Visit: http://nlc1.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/JobsAndCareers.asp and check out who is looking to hire in Nebraska and in other states as well. Directions: Once you access this link, select “view by location”, pick your state and then hit “GO”. This site provides access to postings in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.