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, 2014.

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 library support staff currently seeking 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 or emailing scholarships@ala.org.

“Buying a book is not about obtaining a possession, but about securing a portal.”

-Laura Miller

The Newest Crop of Nebraska Alumni at the Celebratory Graduation Dinner December 3rd

Ideal Bookshelf by Jane Mount
Reading a Novel Changes the Brain, Study Shows

Reading a novel appears to produce quantifiable changes in brain activity, according to an Emory University study published this month in the journal Brain Connectivity.

“It seems plausible that if something as simple as a book can leave the impression that one’s life has been changed, then perhaps it is powerful enough to cause changes in brain function and structure,” says neuroscientist Gregory S. Berns, the lead author of the new study and the director of Emory University’s Center for Neuropolicy.

Berns and his co-authors—Kristina Blaine and Brandon Pye from the Center for Neuropolicy, and Michael Prietula, professor of information systems and operations management at Emory’s Goizueta Business School—studied 19 Emory University students for 17 consecutive days.

Using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), the researchers took “resting state” baseline scans for several days. Next, participants read about 30 pages of a novel—the thriller Pompeii by Robert Harris—each evening for the next nine days, and scans were taken the next morning following the reading. Additional baseline scans were then taken for several more days.

According to Berns, “On the days after the reading, significant increases in connectivity” were discovered on hubs in the brain that are associated “with perspective taking and story comprehension, and the changes exhibited a timecourse that decayed rapidly after the completion of the novel.” Further, Berns says the scans also show “long-term changes in connectivity, which persisted for several days after the reading.”

“Consistent with theories of plot structure,” Berns adds, “the mean arousal ratings of the story rose consistently throughout the story and culminated with the climax—the eruption of the volcano and the destruction of Pompeii.”

Although Berns notes that “it remains an open question for further study as to how lasting these effects are,” his team confirms that the results suggest reading narrative stories definitely strengthens the language processing regions on our brains.

PHOTO COLLAGE: December 3rd Graduation Dinner

Left: Jennifer Barnason and Carrie Kimbrough Enjoy the Delicious Meal

Right: Michael Elsner & Kendall Beck Share a Laugh

Left: Dr. Pasco with the new Mizzou Alumni

Right: The graduates celebrate with the help of some loved ones

LINKS TO STUDENT RESOURCES

Graduate Office
University of Missouri Graduate Offices

Academic Calendar
Registration dates, class dates, and holidays

Graduate Record Exam
GRE requirements, tips, and practice tests

Transcript Request Procedures
University of Missouri transcript procedures

MU Online
Continuing and distance education support (formerly MU Direct)

Course Schedule
University of Missouri course schedule search page
What is your education/library/professional background?

I have worked in academic libraries for the last 25 years. I have held nearly every library position thinkable in those 25 years.

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

I would like to read the Mary Roach books. I have heard good things about them.

I am pretty all over the place from classics to everything! Probably the latest I’ve read is Buck…since I am trying to learn all I can about horses and how to deal with them.

What is your professional reading list?

I try to scan through the Chronicle of Higher Education on a regular basis. It keeps me up to date on what is going on in the academic world. I also take a look at Medical References Quarterly along with a few other academic sources.

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

Not sure what relax and “down time” is…I have four children, a husband, and am a Sunday school teacher and 4-H leader. I feel like I am always running to a sporting or school event for my children or doing my own homework. We do have four horses so I like to spend a little time with them when I can.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I have plenty, but none I’d like to share. I like being a bit of a mystery.

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

I am easy going. I do not let things get me too wound up. I take a day at a time and deal with the present without trying to worry about the “what if’s” in life. I think this is especially important in today’s techy world. Some people worry about if they can keep up with the technology or what if they break something.

What advice do you have for other students who are currently enrolled in Library Science studies?

Don’t be afraid to ask questions. I have had plenty and everyone has been very helpful.

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

Well, of course technology will always be a trend. Technology and information seem to go hand-in-hand. The more advanced the technology, the wider range of information can be accessed. Challenges will be to remind people that even though technology has made more information accessible, it also means people will need help finding what they need more efficiently and effectively.

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

I hope my legacy will be that I am well known for being an intuitive librarian with fascinating information providing skills.

What is your favorite quote?

“If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.” - Cicero
Advocacy Day

February 5, 2014  8:30a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Advocacy Day is an annual event held in Lincoln by the Nebraska Library Association to connect with lawmakers and to recognize volunteers on a statewide level.

Registration Deadline is January 20, 2014!

Plan now to attend NLA Advocacy Day to tell your state senator how your library makes a difference in your community and how eReads affect your patrons. Invite him or her to the volunteer recognition lunch at the Cornhusker.

For more information on the day’s events and to register go to:

http://nebraskalibraries.org/legislationadvocacy/advocacy-day-2/2014-advocacy-day

Upcoming Conferences and Events

The 2nd Annual LISGSA Conference

April 5, 2014

Save the date for the second annual LISGSA Conference!

Presentations and posters will be presented by MU’s LIS students. Registration is FREE, and breakfast and lunch are provided!

The Keynote Speaker, Courtney Young, is a passionate advocate for diversity and professional development in librarianship. You can learn more about her here: http://courtneyyoung.org/

Consider submitting a proposal for a presentation or poster session. This is a great opportunity to add a presentation to your resume and meet your colleagues outside of Nebraska!

Transportation is available! Contact Amy Wenzl at nemogradassistant@gmail.com for more information.
SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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. Make the decision to apply. Your educational journey is worthwhile, but it’s not free. Let ALA, NLA, and NEMA help!

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

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

American Library Association Scholarships http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/scholarships

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 2014-2015 application will be available to download on January 1, 2014, and completed applications are due March 1, 2014. 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

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://nowhiringatyourlibrary.nebraska.gov/ 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.