



Policy: Conference Scholarships

RESPONSIBILITY: CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE

- DATE ADOPTED: March 20, 2019
 - DATE AMENDED:
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Conference Scholarships

A variety of conference scholarships are available. Requirements for each scholarship are outlined below. Scholarship recipients are announced each year prior to the Annual Conference.

Scholarship information and application forms shall be made available on the ARSL website, www.arsl.info.

Conference Scholarship Committee Membership

The conference scholarship committee is made up of an appointed chair, a member of the board to serve as the liaison, and three previous scholarship recipients.

Funds Availability

The ARSL Board Treasurer will determine the availability of funds before announcing scholarships for a given conference. The amount will be dependent upon budget availability and money raised through targeted fundraising. The goal is that ARSL scholarships are self-supporting and independent of the Operating Budget.

There should be a minimum of three (3) awards given every year: the Dr. Bernard Vavrek, the Ken Davenport, and the Founders scholarships. Depending on funds available in any given year, additional funding may be allocated for any approved scholarship.

Funds Awarded

For each annual conference, when sufficient funds are available, awards will be allocated as follows:

Dr. Bernard Vavrek Scholarship

One year of ARSL membership. Complimentary registration, three nights hotel in a conference hotel of the Conference Chair's choosing, and a \$500 travel stipend.

Founder's Scholarship

Complimentary registration, three nights hotel in a conference hotel of the Conference Chair's choosing, and a \$500 travel stipend.

Ken Davenport Scholarship

Complimentary registration and three nights hotel in a conference hotel of the Conference Chair's choosing.

In addition to the scholarships described above, Angel Scholarships may be awarded when funding is available. Award will consist of a complimentary registration and up to three nights in a conference hotel of the Conference Chair's choosing.

Criteria for scholarships

Dr. Bernard Vavrek Scholarship

Applicants must be:

- current part-time or full-time student taking Library and Information Science classes
- first time conference attendee

Founder's Scholarship

Early Career (1-5 years)

Applicants must be:

- **ARSL member** in good standing
- currently employed at a small and/or rural library
- first time conference attendee

A degree or certification is not required for eligibility.

Ken Davenport Scholarship

Mid-Career (6-10 years)

Applicants must be:

- **ARSL member** in good standing
- currently employed at a small and/or rural library
- first time conference attendee

A degree or certification is not required.

Angel Scholarship

Applicants must be:

- **ARSL member** in good standing
- currently employed at a small and/or rural library
- first time conference attendee

A degree or certification is not required.

Third Party Funders

ARSL encourages third-party funders, such as vendors, to provide scholarship opportunities. If a third-party chooses to fully cover the cost of a scholarship and asks ARSL to administer the selection, they will be allowed to establish their own award amount and selection criteria. The amount awarded will at minimum be equal to the conference registration cost. ARSL reserves the right to review and approve criteria used to select scholarship recipients.

If additional third-party scholarships are offered for attendees that are dependent upon attending a particular session, ARSL will require the scholarship recipient to register for and attend the entire conference. Awards offered through a partnership with the ARSL organization or conference may have criteria set by the Conference Committee in conjunction with the funding partner.

Reduction of Funds

In any year that ARSL funds are limited and the Treasurer deems necessary, any award may be reduced to registration waivers only or registration and up to three nights in a conference hotel of the Conference Chair's choosing .

Application Process

The Chair of the Scholarship Committee will develop an application form on an ARSL owned account.

Selection Process

The Scholarship Committee will develop a timeline and rubric for the selection process that promotes fairness and equal opportunity for all applicants. The deadline for selection and announcement should be no later than 10 business days prior to the end of early bird registration.

Selected recipients will have requirements verified by the management company (membership, first time attendee, etc.) and will then be notified of award by the ARSL President or designee. Announcements will be made to membership via the website, social media, and electronic discussion list.

Recipient Responsibilities

- Scholarship recipients are expected to attend the entire conference.
- Scholarship recipients are required to submit an article/blog post to ARSL regarding their conference experience for use on the website to advertise future conferences. The blog post, as well as any required receipts for reimbursement, are due within 30 after conference attendance.
- Recipients may be asked to serve on future scholarship committees.

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