

Winning Professional Development Support Awards

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MPLA/KLA

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Welcome!

Has anyone here received a
professional development
award?

Background

- EBSCO Conference Sponsorship committee
- Cavendish Award Committee

Opportunities

- What do professional development opportunities mean to you?
- ... your career?
- ... your library?
- ... the profession?

Process

- Identify opportunities
- Prepare
- Apply

Identifying Opportunities

Sponsors

- Organizations
 - Membership may be required
- Vendors
- May include financial support, tickets to events, and special groups designed to enhance the experience.

Publicity Venues

- Websites
 - <http://www.lisjobs.com/careers/conference-funding.asp>
- Newsletters
- RSS Feeds

SWETS

Swets Simplifies



Swets Medical Library Association Conference Scholarship

Swets North America is pleased to announce it is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the 2009 Medical Library Association Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, taking place May 15-20, 2009.

Swets understands the tough economic situation occurring across the world, and we believe it is very important to offer support to our customers.

Rules for submitting scholarship application are:

- Complete an essay of no more than 1,000 words describing new services or support a subscription agent can offer to libraries in current challenging economic times
- Must be a Swets customer working as a librarian or para-professional
- Scholarship money must be used to attend the MLA Conference in Honolulu
- Include a brief vita
- E-mail essay and vita to: swets-scholarships@us.swets.com
- Entries must be received by March 28, 2009
- Send inquires to: swets-scholarships@us.swets.com
- All applicants will be notified via e-mail of the status of their submission



Prepare

- Closely examine requirements
- Look for information about the award
 - Organizational goals
 - Past winners
 - Evaluation criteria
 - Information about committee members

Prepare

- Estimate travel and attendance expenses
- Research the conference
 - Relevant sessions and pre-conferences

Prepare

- Look for information about committee members
- Craft a clear case why this specific award will substantially benefit the profession, your library, and/or you
- Keep focus



Relevance

- Family information within reason
- Physical description
- Religion
- Political beliefs
- Social interests outside of libraries

Apply

- Limitations – word count, pages, etc.
- Have someone else review
- Make it easy for the reviewer

Activity

Sample Essay



Requirements

- Applicants must be ALA members. Applicants must not supervise another professional librarian (MLS).
- All applicants must submit an essay of **NO MORE THAN 250 WORDS**, (or it will be disqualified) answering the question: "How will attending this ALA Conference contribute to my professional development?"

Requirements

- Essay Criteria
- Clarity of Content and Form
- Clear Goals and Benefits of Attendance
- Commitment to ALA and the library profession
- Enthusiasm
- Financial Need
- Potential Growth Perceived

Strengths

- Specific focuses (cataloging & rare books)
- States *why* this conference is important
- Demonstrates dedication to the profession
- Provides information about financial support
- Stays on target
- Expresses enthusiasm

Weaknesses

- Not all acronyms are defined (i.e.: ALCTS)
- Could provide clearer financial information
- Could tie attendance to a specific work project

Regrouping

- Try again...
- Ask for feedback from review committee members

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Questions