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# Library Research in North Carolina

*Ilene Nelson, Column Editor*

As I consider the factors which influence the amount and kind of research conducted by librarians, I realize that a lack of time or financial support may deter many of us from undertaking projects. Of these two, lack of financial support is probably the greater stumbling block. By doing a little investigating, I have discovered grants and awards which are available to librarians who wish to conduct research. I present the following summaries as a spur to readers who have ideas but not the backing to pursue them. In each entry the source of the information is indicated by an abbreviated title reference, ALA for the *ALA Handbook of Organization*<sup>1</sup> and DRG for the *Directory of Research Grants*<sup>2</sup>. The number that follows "ALA" is a page reference; an item designation follows "DRG."

Various programs are offered to librarians regardless of professional specialization and with few restrictions concerning the nature of the research:

#### ***Carroll Preston Baber Research Grant (DRG-786)***

This grant is given annually to support research that could "lead to an improvement in services to any specified groups of people" and with the potential to serve as a model for the library community. Special consideration will be given to proposals focusing on technological applications and to those involving cooperation between libraries and other agencies, or between librarians and persons in other disciplines. Any ALA member may apply for this \$10,000 grant. For more information contact Mary Jo Lynch, Baber Jury Staff Liaison, (312) 944-6780; American Library Association, 50 E Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

#### ***(Herbert W.) Putnam Honor Award (ALA-193)***

This is an award of \$500 which is "presented as a grant-in-aid to an American librarian of outstanding ability for travel, writing, or any other use that might improve his or her service to the library profession or to society." The Putnam Award will next be presented in 1992. Further information is available from the ALA staff liaison, Elaine K. Wingate.

#### ***Whitney-Carnegie Awards (ALA-195)***

These awards "are granted to individuals for preparation of guides to research resources. The aids must be aimed at a scholarly audience but have general applicability. The awards cover costs appropriate to the preparation of a useful product, including the cost of research and compilation. The maximum amount awarded is \$5000; the amounts and number of awards are at the Publishing Committee's discretion and vary from year to year. Preference is given to projects for which the American Library Association can serve as publisher." Contact the ALA

Publishing Committee for more information at 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

#### ***Council on Library Resources Faculty/Librarian Cooperative Research Program Grants (DRG-1503)***

"This cooperative program is designed to enhance the research skills of librarians and to promote better communication between librarians and teaching faculty." The maximum amount of the grant is \$3000. A detailed description can be requested from the Cooperative Research Program, (202) 483-7474; Council on Library Resources, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

#### ***Council on Library Resources General Research Grants (DRG-1504)***

"Proposals are accepted for carefully developed projects to explore topics directly related to the generation, accessibility, and use of recorded information, especially where the results are likely to support library objectives. Individuals from any academic discipline who have an interest in the broad subject of information and its use are urged to explore their ideas with the CLR staff." The grants are modest in amount and are not intended to cover continuing operating costs or salaries. Appropriate proposal topics include "the influence of computer and other technologies on library operations and management; the information requirements of major disciplines, including the relationship between characteristics of information and its utility; international aspects of library service; and the economics of libraries." For details contact General Research Grants, (202) 483-7474; Council on Library Resources, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

For librarians who want to do research and travel, too, there are several relevant grants:

#### ***PLA/CLSI International Study Award (ALA-206)***

C.L. Systems donates this award of up to \$5000 for the purpose of supporting "a study tour abroad that will stimulate interest in the development of an international study project with public libraries outside the United States and enable a staff member of a United States public library to carry out an international study project that will further and improve international understanding among public libraries worldwide." Information and forms are available from the Public Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

**Martinus Nijhoff International West European Specialist Study Grant (ALA-201)**

A maximum of 10,000 Dutch guilders is awarded annually to enable an ALA member "to study some aspect of West European studies, librarianship, or the booktrade." The grant covers air travel to and from Europe, transportation in Europe, and lodging and board for no more than fourteen consecutive days. The primary criterion for awarding the grant is the significance and utility of the proposed project as a contribution to the study of the acquisition, organization, or use of library materials from or relating to Western Europe. Application guidelines are available from ACRL.

**Bogle International Library Travel Fund (DRG-964)**

"Awards of \$500 are granted to librarians to travel abroad to study and/or attend first international conferences." Interested librarians should contact Robert A. Doyle, ALA International Relations Committee, (312) 944-6780; American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

**Fulbright Scholar Awards (DRG-2192)**

"The Council for International Exchange of Scholars awards Fulbright Scholarships to Americans for advanced research or for university lecturing abroad . . . Awards for U.S. citizens include approximately 300 grants in research and 700 grants in university teaching and lecturing for periods ranging from 3 months to an academic year. There are openings in over 100 countries, and in a few cases, the opportunity for multi-country research is available." Requirements include U.S. citizenship; Ph.D. or comparable professional qualifications; university or college teaching experience for lecturing awards; and for selected assignments, proficiency in a foreign language. Grant benefits include round-trip travel for the grantee, and for most full academic year awards, one dependent; maintenance allowance to cover living costs of grantee and family; tuition allowance, in many countries, for school-age children; and book and baggage allowances. For more information contact the Country Program Officer, Fulbright Scholar Awards, (202) 686-6240; Council for International Exchange of Scholars; 3400 International Dr. NW, Ste M-500; Washington, DC 20008-3097.

**Harold Lancour Scholarship for Foreign Study (DRG-3031)**

"This scholarship is awarded to a librarian or graduate library science student for foreign study and research in the library sciences." The maximum amount of the award is \$1000. To obtain application forms, contact the Executive Secretary, Phi Mu International Library Science Honor Society, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, (412) 624-9439.

**Library/Book Fellows Program (DRG-3108)**

"Funded by the U.S. Information Agency and administered by the ALA, this program was initiated to place U.S. library and publishing professionals in institutions overseas for periods of several months to one year. The program's purpose is twofold: to enable U.S. librarians and publishers to enrich and broaden their career experiences through a short period of overseas service in research and development; and to increase international understanding through the establishment of professional and personal relationships and the accomplishment of mutual goals. Eight to ten fellows a year are sent around the globe to work on projects such as developing a university-level library science curriculum, setting up a system for automating library functions, and developing and promoting American studies collections in host countries. Other work has included organizing a national archival collection, training host-country librarians in traditional and automated information retrieval techniques, and promoting the translation and distribution of U.S. books. Each year host institutions submit proposals by November 1, and new countries are selected and positions are announced January 1." Applicants must be U.S. citizens and must be educated and experienced in the field of library or information science, publishing, or other fields directly related to the interests and needs of specific projects. A command of the language of the host country is desired for all applicants and may be required for some specific assignments. For more detailed information contact Robert P. Doyle, Director, Library/Book Fellows Program, (800) 545-2433, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

There are also various grant programs which are designed to support librarians with particular specializations:

**(Frances) Henne YASD/Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) Research Grant (ALA-208)**

This annual grant of \$500 is intended to provide seed money for small scale projects which will improve library service to young adults. "Applicants must be a members of YASD, although the research project may be undertaken by an individual, an institution, or a group." Further information is available from ALA staff liaison Linda Waddle.

**World Book Grant (DRG-5794)**

This annual \$1500 grant supports continuing education in school or children's librarianship. Funds might be used, for example, for attending a special workshop or to underwrite a sabbatical. The grant may be divided among no more than three

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applicants. The applicant must be a member of the Catholic Library Association. Detailed application information can be obtained from Michael W. Rechel, Director of Publications/Media, (215) 649-5251, Catholic Library Association, 461 W. Lancaster Ave., Haverford, PA 19041.

**Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Award (ALA-203)**

This annual \$2000 award offers financial support to documents librarians for "travel and/or study in the field of documents librarianship or in an area of study that will directly benefit their performance as a documents librarian." Contact the ALA Government Documents Round Table for details.

**(Samuel) Lazerow Fellowship for Research in Acquisitions or Technical Services (ALA-200)**

This annual award of \$1000 was established "to foster advances in acquisitions or technical services by providing librarians in those fields a fellowship for research, travel, or writing." The fellowship is administered by the Association of College and Research Libraries, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

**Bowker/Ulrich's Serials Librarianship Award (DRG-981)**

This \$1500 award is given for "contribution to serials librarianship in areas of professional association participation, library education, serials literature, research, or development of tools leading to better understanding of the field of serials." To apply, contact the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, (312) 944-6780, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

**MLA Research, Development, and Demonstration Projects Awards (DRG-3481)**

"The purpose of this award is to provide support for research, development, and demonstration projects which will help to promote excellence in the field of health science librarianship and information sciences. Grants will not be given to support an activity which is operational in nature or has only local usefulness." Students in graduate library science programs as well as practicing health sciences librarians are eligible to apply. Contact Ann Landretti, Program Services Assistant, Grants and Scholarship Program, (312) 419-9094, Medical Library Association, 6 N. Michigan Ave, Ste 300, Chicago, IL 60602.

**Database and Expert Systems Research Grants (DRG-1578)**

This grant supports "research fundamental to the design, development, management, and use of database and knowledge-based systems. Research topics include conventional databases and knowledge base extensions, database support in distributed systems, expert systems, and information retrieval. Request information about Program No. 47.070 from Dr. Maria Zemankova, Program Director, Database and Expert Systems, Division of Information, Robotics, and Intelligent Systems, Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering, (202) 357-9570, National Science Foundation, 1800 G St NW, Washington, DC 20550.

**References**

1. *ALA Handbook of Organization 1989/1990 and Membership Directory*, ed. Gerald G. Hodges (Chicago: American Library Association, 1989).
2. *Directory of Research Grants*. (Phoenix: The Oryx Press, 1990).

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allocating fixed percentages of court costs to the county law library should be established, based perhaps on a county's population. All of the existing county law libraries have basic collections in place which need not be duplicated by the local public library. Developing these collections to meet the proposed minimum state standards would not be accomplished overnight and might well require help from the state level. Provision for the training of county law library staff should be coordinated at the state level (perhaps by the Administrative Office of the Courts). Reciprocal agreements regarding both materials and professional expertise should exist between the county law library and the public library. The State's library and information science schools and law librarians in academic, firm, and other settings also could assist as needed with training and other professional expertise.

The need for a system designed to serve the legal information needs of all North Carolinians is undeniable. Establishment of a strong system of county law libraries building on the facilities already in place is a feasible solution to this problem.

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919-733-3270, Public libraries use INWATS

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