

Medical Library Association report for EAHIL

Carol Lefebvre

MLA Representative to EAHIL
Independent Information Consultant
Lefebvre Associates Ltd, Oxford, UK
Contact: Carol@LefebvreAssociates.org

Focus on MLA Awards, Grants and Scholarships

As this issue of JEAHIL is going to press, the US MLA Annual Meeting is in full swing in Chicago, so I shall report on that in my next column. For this issue, I am focusing on the wide range of Awards, Grants and Scholarships offered by MLA.

For many of these Awards, Grants and Scholarships it is a requirement, not unreasonably, that the applicant must be a member of MLA - another reason to join MLA at the reduced International Membership rate of \$130! It is interesting to note, however, that for the majority of these awards and grants, it is not listed as a requirement that the applicant must be a citizen / resident of the USA or Canada. Indeed, for the Cunningham Memorial International Fellowship (see below), it is a stipulation that the applicant must be a citizen / resident of a country *other than* the USA or Canada. For further information on joining MLA please see:
<http://www.mlanet.org/joinmla/intern.html>

The deadline for application for the majority of MLA Awards is November 1st and for the majority of Grants and Scholarships it is December 1st but exact dates vary, so please see the links below.

The Cunningham Memorial International Fellowship, established in 1973, is a fellowship for health sciences librarians from countries outside the USA and Canada. The award provides for attendance at the MLA Annual Meeting and observation and supervised work in one or more medical libraries in the USA and Canada. The eligibility criteria state that the applicant must have both an undergraduate degree and a Master's level library degree (though the latter requirement may, under certain circumstances, be waived) and must be working or preparing to work in a health science library in his or her own country. For details of previous Cunningham Award recipients and further details of the application process, see:
<https://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/cunningham.html>

The EBSCO / MLA Annual Meeting Grant, established in 1994, provides stipends of up to \$1,000 each to four librarians for travel and conference-related expenses, to enable more librarians to attend the US MLA Annual Meetings. The eligibility criteria state that the applicant must be currently employed as a medical librarian and must have between two and five years' experience as a health sciences librarian at the time of the Annual Meeting. For details of previous EBSCO / MLA Annual Meeting Grant recipients and further details of the application process, see:
<https://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/meeting.html>

The Eugene Garfield Research Fellowship, established in 2013, promotes and supports research in the history of information science. The fellowship is intended to stimulate research into the history of information science in the medical or health sciences, recognizing that rediscovery, interpretation, and understanding of a rich history in this key knowledge area helps practitioners and researchers interpret the present and prepare for the future. The fellowship recipient receives a certificate at the Association's Annual Meeting and a stipend of \$5,000 after the Annual Meeting to be used for research-related purposes regarding the history of information science. The eligibility criteria state that health sciences librarians and information scientists, health professionals, researchers, educators and administrators are eligible to apply and applicants must have a Master's or Doctor's degree or be enrolled in a

programme leading to such a degree and demonstrate a commitment to the health sciences. (Note that the fellowship is not designed to support research for a doctoral dissertation or Master's thesis.) For further details of the application process, see:

<https://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/garfield.html>

The HLS / MLA Professional Development Grant, sponsored by the Hospital Libraries Section of MLA and established in 1998, provides librarians working in hospitals and similar clinical settings with the support needed for educational or research activities, which includes developing and acquiring the knowledge and skills delineated in Competencies for Lifelong Learning and Professional Success: The Educational Policy Statement of the Medical Library Association and The Research Imperative: The Research Policy Statement of the Medical Library Association. The HLS / MLA Professional Development Grant may also be used to support reimbursement for expenses incurred in conducting scientific research, such as professional assistance in survey research design, statistical analyses etc. The eligibility criteria state that the applicant must have been employed as a health sciences librarian within the last year in either a hospital or other clinical care institution. For details of previous HLS / MLA Professional Development Grant recipients and further details of the application process, see:

<https://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/prodev.html>

The Medical Informatics Section / MLA Career Development Grant, established in 1997, awards one individual up to \$1,500 to support a career development activity that will contribute to the advancement of the field of medical informatics. The eligibility criteria state that the applicant must have a Master's in Library Science or equivalent degree, must have the potential to make significant contributions to medical informatics and may be either a recent graduate or a librarian with significant experience in health sciences libraries. For details of previous Medical Informatics Section / MLA Career Development Grant recipients and further details of the application process, see:

<https://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/career.html>

In addition to the various grants highlighted above, please also consider nominating your colleagues (or even seeking nomination yourself!) for the various awards from MLA that are open to those outside the USA and Canada.

The T. Mark Hodges International Service Award is particularly worthy of mention as it is only open to citizens / residents of a country *other than* the USA or Canada. It honours outstanding individual achievement in promoting, enabling and / or delivering improvements in the quality of health information internationally through the development of health information professionals, the improvement of libraries or an increased use of health information services.

Since its inception in 2007, when it was awarded to T. Mark Hodges (posthumously), it has been awarded to applicants from the UK in 2008, from Africa in 2013 and most recently from India in 2014.

The eligibility criteria state that the applicant must have both an undergraduate degree and a Master's level library degree (though the latter requirement may, under certain circumstances, be waived) and must be working or preparing to work in a health science library in his or her own country. For details of previous T. Mark Hodges International Service Award recipients and further details of the application process, see:

<https://www.mlanet.org/awards/honors/hodges.html>

For full details of all Grants, see:

<https://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/index.html>

For full details of all Awards, see:

<https://www.mlanet.org/about/awards-and-honors>