

Arkansas Library Association School Library Media Specialist Scholarship
Statement of Policy

The Arkansas Library Association invites applications for its first annual scholarship for graduate studies in school library media. To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following conditions:

1. Applicants must be a legal resident of Arkansas and have completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, have initial licensure in a teaching field, and be a non-library school graduate.
2. Applicants must be currently accepted and enrolled in a National Council for Accreditation for Teacher Education (NCATE) accredited program leading to a degree as a school library media specialist. An applicant who is a current student must submit to the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) Scholarship Committee an official transcript from an NCATE accredited school.
3. Applications will be considered from persons already employed in a school library provided that they have been accepted and are currently enrolled in a NCATE accredited program leading to a master's degree in school library media.
4. To apply for the scholarship, applicants must submit an AASL Scholarship application form, a letter of application, a resume, and at least three letters of reference from individuals qualified to address the academic and professional potential of the candidate.
5. The basis of selection of recipients shall be: 1) applicant's interest in school library media as a profession, 2) academic record, 3) references. Awards are made without regard to race, sex, age, religion, or ethnic background.
6. Recipients must: 1) be a legal resident of the State of Arkansas, and 2) a licensed teacher in the State of Arkansas and 3) be within one year of completing their studies, accept or maintain professional employment as a school library media specialist or in a school library media specialist related position in Arkansas, and 4) after accepting or maintaining such employment, continue to work as a school library media specialist or in a school library media specialist related position in Arkansas for at least one year, and 5) maintain membership in the Arkansas Library Association during the one year period of required employment in a school library or school library related position in Arkansas.
7. Recipients will be required to sign a promissory note agreeing to repay the Arkansas Library Association the amount of the scholarship unless the conditions set out herein are completed. Upon graduation and employment, recipients must provide the Arkansas Association of School Librarians/Arkansas Library Association with an official transcript showing the completion of their prescribed course of studies and an official letter from their workplace verifying their employment in a school library or school library related position in Arkansas.

8. The Scholarship Committee of the Arkansas Library Association in consultation with the Arkansas Association of School Librarians reserves the right to make no award.

9. Application forms may be obtained online at the Arkansas Library Association website (<http://www.arlib.org>); or by calling the ArLA Office at 501-860-7585. Completed forms must be returned by **August 1**.

A completed ArLA SLMS Scholarship application form, a letter of application from the applicant, an official transcript, a resume and three letters of reference must be received by the ArLA Scholarship Committee postmarked no later than August 1 to be eligible for consideration.

ArLA Scholarship applications should be mailed to:

Arkansas Library Association
Lynda Hampel, Executive Administrator
P.O. Box 958, Benton, AR 72018-0958
Phone: 501-860-7585 | Fax: 501-778-4014
Business Email: arlib2@sbcglobal.net