

ARLIS/NA Awards: The Inside Track

ARLIS/NA Lunchtime Chat - Friday, January 11, 2013

Adrienne Lai: Hi all, we can get started with introductions

Adrienne Lai: We've got three members of various awards committees here

Adrienne Lai: they'll talk a bit about the awards and the application process

Adrienne Lai: and then we'll open it up to Q & A

Adrienne Lai: So, first, we have Rebecca Cooper, from the University of Virginia - she's the Chair of the Awards Committee

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Hi all!

Adrienne Lai: Next, Viveca Pattison Robichaud, from the University of Notre Dame is Chair of the Travel Awards Sub-Committee

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): Hello!

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Hi

Adrienne Lai: And Cara List, from the University of Oregon, is Co-Chair of the Research Awards Sub-Committee

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Hi Everyone!

Adrienne Lai: Shalimar Fojas-White, the other co-chair of Research Awards, unfortunately couldn't make it.

Adrienne Lai: So maybe we'll start off by having Rebecca just talk briefly about ARLIS awards

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Thanks, Adrienne.

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): ARLIS/NA offers many awards to support our members in different ways, at different stages of their careers.

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Information about the awards can be found here:http://www.arlisna.org/about/awards/awards_index.html

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Many of our awards are sponsored by ARLIS/NA and make great use of your donations and dues.

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Others are generously sponsored by companies and individuals that support the work of ARLIS/NA.

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Our hope is that everyone from those just thinking about a career in art libraries to those who have spent their whole life in them will find an award that might fit their goals and accomplishments.

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Each award has different criteria, deadlines, and application processes. So, watch for announcements on the list-serv, and keep your eye on the page I linked above.

Adrienne Lai: Yes! There was recently an announcement for the Samuel Kress European Travel Award

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Also, be aware that the timeline for awards can change from year to year... Sometimes due to changes in funding timelines and the like. So bear with us a bit. :)

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Anything else you'd like me to mention Adrienne?

Adrienne Lai: Nope, that's great Rebecca! Now we'll have Viveca talk a bit about the travel awards.

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): Sure!

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): The Travel Awards are a great way for both members and non-members to be able to attend the ARLIS/NA annual conference, which will be taking place this year in Pasadena, April 25-29th

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): There are quite a few different awards, for different types of art librarians and for different stages in their careers

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): The deadline this year will be January 31st and the application form should be up in the next few days.

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): Each travel award is \$1000

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): Anything else I should mention?

Adrienne Lai: nope, we can leave the rest for Q & A.

Adrienne Lai: Though I'll mention there are also awards just for students!

Adrienne Lai: Next, Cara, do you want to talk a bit about the research awards?

annie herlocker: Are there any awards for arlis members who are new to arlis, but not currently working in an art library?

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Absolutely

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): The Research Awards Committee is responsible for granting three awards.

Margarita Mirabal: It is OK to apply for more than one award? Do you recommend that?

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): You can only apply for one travel award per year, so I would recommend choosing the award that you feel is most appropriate to your situation

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): It is okay-- though generally speaking the competition within the Research Awards group is stiff enough that we like to spread the joy

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Anyway, The H W Wilson Foundation Research Award is an award for projects that have not yet been undertaken. Members apply for what is essentially a grant to do a project that they propose in the application. Naturally I should say here that we really appreciate what Wilson does for our members!

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Hi all-- If we could hold travel award questions for a few more minutes, let's have Cara introduce research awards, and then we can specifically answer other questions to avoid confusion.

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Also, Worldwide Books offers two awards.

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): One is the Worldwide Books Award for Publications (generally meaning traditional print forms) of books, articles or other types of publication.

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): The other is for Electronic Publications, which seems to intimidate some people, but this award includes websites as well as any number of other e-pubs.

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): All of the research awards are for ARLIS/NA members only, but if a member is part of a group who are jointly responsible for a publication that is also acceptable

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): We're getting ready to announce our awards within the next week, but are waiting until all our funding is secure.

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): the deadlines will most likely be set on February 8th.

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Anything else, or should we open it up for questions?

Adrienne Lai: Let's open it up to Q and A! Please try to direct your question to a specific person, or just clarify that you're asking about travel awards or research awards.

Adrienne Lai: I think Annie had a question above - Annie, was your question about travel or research awards?

annie herlocker: Viveca, it looks like the ASKArt award is the only travel award that would apply to my situation and it is not going to be offered in 2013. I graduated in 2010, work in a public library right now, but am trying to get back into an academic art library. I did publish an article in Art Documentation in 2012. Is there any kind of assistance award out there that might apply?

annie herlocker: I'm a new member too and was not a member when I published the article. I'd like to attend the conference and even sign up for a committee...but I'm not going to get any assistance from my current job.

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): (I'm going to jump in a bit on travel awards as a past chair).

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): Thanks, Rebecca! I'm not sure if I know what award would suit Annie's situation...

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Annie, the Conference Travel Award is open to all current members. We will ask about your past accomplishments and your career, so it doesn't matter whether you are a new member.

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): In the past, the committees have given awards both to members with a rich career in art libraries (whose career would be furthered by attending the conference) as well as to new professionals whose career would benefit from attending the conference as a springboard.

annie herlocker: Okay. I'm thrown off, though, by this "Eligibility: Individual member who serves as a committee member, group moderator, and/or chapter officer." I'm not on a committee yet.

Adrienne Lai: Cara, I have a question about the Wilson Award - is it just for research in art librarianship only? I know some members do research and publish in art history, museum studies, etc.

annie herlocker: From the wording, it doesn't appear that I am eligible for any available travel/conference attendance award.

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Annie, that is true. But there's no time like the present to write to some of our committees and volunteer your time!

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): It absolutely includes all of the areas you mentioned-- not just art librarianship.

Adrienne Lai: But it should be in an art-related discipline, correct?

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Yes. You can find the description of the award on this page: http://www.arlisna.org/about/awards/wilson_guidelines.html

Lauren: I have a question about the Kress Award- is that only for ARLIS members presenting a paper or is it open to members who have organized panels / session convenors at a conference?

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): the description says that it includes "those which result in original scholarship in the arts (literary, performing, architectural, visual, etc.) or aspects of visual and material culture."

annie herlocker: I have volunteered my time for a committee for my local chapter...they said to keep watching the listserv for opportunities. I was just hoping to attend the conference and get a broader perspective of which committee would be fitting for my goals and experience.

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Lauren, that's a great question. I would write to the sub-committee chair for Kress and ask. That chair is Holly Hatheway holly.hatheway@yale.edu

Ryan: Re: Travel awards for students; I started a MLIS program in the fall and joined ARLIS/NA shortly after. I have an BFA in studio art with few academic accomplishments since, are there skills I can highlight for the committee? As I read above, volunteering now for a committee is a good start as well as volunteering at the conference

Adrienne Lai: Annie, I believe that many local chapters also offer travel awards, so keep an eye out for announcements for those.

annie herlocker: Thanks.

Adrienne Lai: Ryan, that's a great question in general.

Adrienne Lai: What are folks looking for when they review applications?

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Ryan, absolutely. There is an essay portion to the application that allows you space to describe what you hope to get from the conference. That's a great place to really help us see what might set you apart. We want to give awards to those who will come back and bring expertise and energy to ARLIS in the future. You'll also be able to showcase your resume, professional involvement, etc.

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Annie's questions remind me to say that we've had winners of research awards who are new professionals as well.

Lauren: (To all Award Chair members) Are there any 'successful application' examples? I have never applied for an award and wonder what the best format is for submitting them? What do you (the chairs) like to see in an application? (I hope this question makes sense)

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): There is a (dated) list of Chapter awards for travel here: <http://arlisnap.org/resources/arlisna-chapter-award-info/> While it isn't up to date, it might still be a good starting place.

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Students sometimes have taken what started as a paper for library school and turned it into a larger research project that resulted in publication.

Ryan: Thank you!

Adrienne Lai: Yes - and it seems from the Wilson award description, research in the wider field of librarianship (not just art librarianship) is eligible too. Is this correct, Cara?

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Lauren, we don't really have examples of past winning

applications. Often it depends on the applicant pool. I will say that the essay portion of travel awards can make quite a difference to the sub-committee members. And spending some time really thinking about what the award would mean to you/allow you to do, in more than a generic sense.

Lauren: Thanks

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): yes, definitely

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): To my knowledge we do not have "successful application" example for travel awards, but we do give equal consideration to early career librarians/MLS Students who stand to gain professionally by attending as well as applicants with experience, whose careers will also be furthered by attending

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): the wilson award is more like a grant-- so it's not for something you've already published, but it is funding to go forward with research.

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): And, to reinforce what Rebecca said, the essay portion is the best way to convey how attendance to the conference will help you in your career and your financial need

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Also, for those of you who can't wait another minute to see the Travel Awards application, you can see a *sample* here: <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0ByRsf98pAo9eWWWhDeWxzVDIYTTg/edit> Please note that you can NOT fill out the PDF as your application. You will need to submit the electronic form that will be active VERY soon. But, you can start planning out your responses if you like.

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): We're looking for interesting and original research projects, undertaken by individuals (not institutional mandates) and we're looking to be able to see how the funding will be used to pursue the goals of the research.

Adrienne Lai: Lauren, I can also add from my experience on the ARLIS Internship Award that being specific does help - when students can articulate their career goals in a thoughtful and particular way, it's impressive.

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Adrienne-- yes, the wider field of librarianship is good, though generally our membership requirement keeps the focus on art and architecture related fields that is not a requirement

Lauren: Thanks Adrienne

Adrienne Lai: And although I've never served on the travel awards committee, I imagine it wouldn't hurt to have a look at the preliminary conference program and note specific things you'd want to attend, and how you'd benefit from them

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Adrienne, that would be a *great* way to be specific in your Travel Award application!

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Lauren-- we don't have examples of successful

applications available but you can see the previous winners on this page:
http://www.arlisna.org/about/awards/researchawards_history.html

Margarita Mirabal: Viveca, I'm presenting a poster (for the first time) about a digitization project (largely photographs) I'm currently involved with and I'm wondering if the Andrew Cahan Photography Award is the best one for me.

Lauren: Thank you for sharing the link Cara - and great advice Adrienne!

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Lauren: as much information as you can add-- if it is for a worldwide award, providing any reviews is helpful

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): if you're applying for a Wilson award, then absolutely specifics are critical.

Lauren: Cara- what do you mean Reviews?

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): we've sometimes been unable to tell what the applicant needed funding to do-- that makes it hard to give an award

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): Margarita, from how you describe your project, it sounds like the Cahan Photography award would be a good fit for you.

Adrienne Lai: Yes - the more specific you are, the easier it is for the committee to get a sense of who you are, what your goals are, and in the case of research awards, what the project might look like once it is completed.

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Well if you've published a book or in some cases a website, there are often reviews that have been published in journals or on other websites

Margarita Mirabal: Thanks!

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Lauren-- are you more interested in the Wilson award-- because reviews would not come into play with that sort of situation.

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): The more specific Travel awards applications are, both to the applicants interests and the conference program, the more successful the application

Lauren: Cara - I am interested in the Kress award, but trying to get a feel for what I need to do writing the application

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): Well then most of the advice about providing as many specifics as possible is probably good for you. You'd like the award committee to understand how you will benefit from their attention.

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Lauren, I would suggest being as thorough as you can in detailing your expectations for the conference you'll be attending. The Kress award exists because ARLIS believes that we benefit when our members take our expertise elsewhere and also bring back expertise from conferences abroad. So you want to make it clear that

you won't just be present at that conference, but that you'll be participating, engaging, and enriching, and then bringing that home!

Lauren: This is fantastic thank you all

Adrienne Lai: I concur - it's good to make the connection between specifics of things you are going to see and do, and how that will help you in your current job or your professional goals.

polk38354: Lost my connection. Thank you for the chat!

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): I just want to generally say that I encourage *Everyone* to apply. Don't count yourself out. While we do often have a tough time choosing award recipients, these awards exist to support all of you. So please take the time to apply, even if you're unsure. And contact award chairs if you have questions!

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): I really want to encourage all ARLIS/NA members to recognize that so many of us are engaged in really interesting research projects. Our awards are a great opportunity to get some extra credit for the fantastic website, blog or print publication you have or will be producing!

annie herlocker: Thanks!

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): We can't tell you how or if you'll get the award, but we can try to clarify things for you.

Adrienne Lai: And I think "engaging" is a great verb. It really helps your case when committee members feel you're really going to be active and participate in the opportunity the award provides.

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): my email is clist@uoregon.edu-- please don't hesitate to write if you have further questions!

annie herlocker: I'm hoping to get more involved with my local chapter and, if I can attend, participate in the mentor program. My local chapter has been very welcoming so far and it's good to know there is a lot of support from ARLIS.

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Sounds great, Annie! Hope to meet you in person soon!

Ryan: Thank you all for your insight.

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): my email address is vivecarobichaud@nd.edu if you have any additional questions

Adrienne Lai: We have just a couple of minutes left, so if anyone has one last question, now is the time - or you can email our awards chairs!

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): And for those of you who are new members and or students, I should plug <http://arlisnap.org/> as a great place to start getting involved.

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): And you can reach me at rcooper@virginia.edu

Adrienne Lai: Thanks everyone for joining us, and a special thanks to Rebecca, Viveca and Cara!

Cara List (Research Awards Chair): I also want to thank Adrienne and the Education sub-committee for putting this all together

Margarita Mirabal: Thank you all for the advice

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Good luck everyone!

Adrienne Lai: You're very welcome, and we will have a transcript of the chat available on the ARLIS website.

Rebecca Cooper (Awards Chair): Thanks, Adrienne!

Viveca Robichaud (Travel Awards Chair): yes, thanks Adrienne!

Lauren: Thank you all

Adrienne Lai: I hope you all were inspired to put together your applications. Work hard and good luck!