

ALIA Awards 2006

The Association is calling for nominations for its Premier Awards and for two of its important Research Awards.

The HCL Anderson, Redmond Barry and Ellinor Archer Pioneering Awards are the Premier Awards offered by the Association and commemorate three individuals who had a major impact on the development of librarianship and/or library services in Australia.

As principal librarian of the Free Public Library of New South Wales from 1893 to 1906, HCL Anderson created a library of national importance. He was responsible for building and preserving the first Australiana collection of national significance. He worked with DS Mitchell, a wealthy collector of Australiana, persuading him to finance the housing of his and other collections in what is now the Mitchell Library of the State Library of New South Wales. Offered in commemoration of this great librarian, the HCL Anderson Award recognises outstanding achievement within the library and information sector by an Associate member of ALIA.

The Redmond Barry Award similarly recognises achievement within the library and information sector. However the award is open only to individuals who are not eligible for Associate or Library Technician membership of the Association. To be nominated for this award an individual need not be an ALIA member. The award honours Sir Redmond Barry, Victorian solicitor-general and a judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria who, in 1853, was appointed chancellor of the University of Melbourne and chairman of trustees of the Public Library of Victoria, positions he held until his death in 1880. He is generally regarded as the founder of the State Library of Victoria.

Ellinor Archer, MBE, was a pioneer, a foundation member of the Australian Institute of Librarians and its first woman president. As chief librarian of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (later CSIRO), she developed an extensive library network delivering modern specialist library services and organised the first co-operative union catalogue of Australian library holdings, based on the scientific and technical periodicals in collections throughout Australia. The award named in her honour recognises pioneering work in new areas of library and information.

All three Premier Awards are peer-nominated in confidence — indeed it is important to the award process that nominees remain unaware that their name has been put forward. The Association welcomes nominations of

individuals worthy of consideration for these, ALIA's highest honours. Nominations close on 1 August each year and are considered by the National Awards Panel, which then forwards its recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Research Awards

As the peak professional body for the sector, ALIA has an important role in promoting and supporting research and innovation within the sector. ALIA Research Awards encourage members to commit to research that can build the body of professional knowledge and lead to development or improvement of library and information services in Australia.

The Association offers its Research Awards on a biennial basis and in 2006 will be seeking applications from personal financial members of the Association for the YBP/Lindsay & Howes Award for Collection Services and the Study Grant award.

Sponsored by YBP/Lindsay & Howes and first offered by the Association in 2004, this award, as its name suggests, offers an opportunity for a member to develop and research a project that will inform and advance practice in the area of collection services and management. As part of her project, the current recipient of the award, Kerrie Hunter, is investigating the management of a distributed collection of specialised material.

The Study Grant Award is broader in scope, enabling the recipient to undertake a study project on a library/information issue/problem of current and future relevance to the development and improvement of the sector in Australia. Since its inception in 1984, recipients of this award have investigated a range of issues, from serials management to children and young adult's reading programs, from provision of local studies services to electronic services and virtual libraries. A major function of a Study Grant Award is to enable research that would otherwise be out of the applicant's reach because of the time and costs involved.

Practitioners interested in undertaking a project are encouraged to develop a research proposal. To help in developing a project proposal there a number of resources available on the ALIA website. Applications for these awards are considered by the Research Committee, which forwards its recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Further information and nomination forms for the Premier and Research Awards are available on the website at <http://alia.org.au/awards/>.

Marie Murphy

2005 Metcalfe winner announced

The 2005 Metcalfe winner has been announced — Clare Glanville — and the award will be presented in late January. March *inCite* will carry a full report. ■

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