



## Awards Criteria

Submit Nominations Online by June 1 at [vla.org](http://vla.org)

### **Academic Innovator Award**

This award recognizes academic librarians or academic project teams who have made an outstanding contribution to advance the mission of an academic library in Virginia through an innovative project, program or service during the nomination period. (Nomination period is calendar year 2016 for awards given in 2017.)

#### Criteria

- a. Nominees must be employed by an academic or research library
- b. Projects, programs, or services should demonstrate creativity, quality, and innovation within the context of an academic institution. Innovation is defined as creating something new or introducing new methods with great results. Innovation will be considered very broadly and is not limited to technology.

#### Instructions

Line 1: Contributions to academic library field

Line 2: Nominator's evaluation of the contribution made by the nominee, and how it is worthy of consideration for the award

Line 3: Documentation and/or letters of support for the nominee

#### Award

Plaque presented at the Annual Conference.

### **Donna G. Cote Librarian of the Year**

The Librarian of the Year Award recognizes exemplary achievement of a working Virginia librarian who has made a significant contribution(s) at any level of librarianship within the year of the award nomination period (Nomination period is calendar year 2016 for awards given in 2017.)

Named for Donna G. Cote (1945-2016), former Director of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library in Fredericksburg, as well as Past VLA President (2008) and Past President of the Virginia Public Library Directors Association (2006).

#### Criteria

- a. Hold the MLS degree or be a certified school/media specialist in Virginia.
- b. Have made a significant contribution by any of the following:
  - Demonstrating the value of libraries
  - Enhancing the image of librarians and/or libraries
  - Promoting an accessible and positive climate in the library
  - Advancing community relations
  - Initiating a new library service or program



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Line 2: Nominator's evaluation of the contribution made by the nominee, and how it is worthy of consideration for the award

Line 3: Documentation and/or letters of support for the nominee

### Award

Plaque presented at the Annual Conference.

### **Public Library Innovator Award**

This award recognizes public librarians or public library project teams who have made an outstanding contribution to advance the mission of a public library in Virginia through an innovative project, program or service during the nomination period.

(Nomination period is calendar year 2016 for awards given in 2017.)

### Criteria

a. Nominees must be employed by a public library

b. Projects, programs, or services should demonstrate creativity, quality, and innovation within the context of a public library. Innovation is defined as creating something new or introducing new methods with great results. Innovation will be considered very broadly and is not limited to technology.

### Instructions

Line 1: Contributions to public library field

Line 2: Nominator's evaluation of the contribution made by the nominee, and how it is worthy of consideration for the award

Line 3: Documentation and/or letters of support for the nominee

### Award

Plaque presented at the Annual Conference.

### **Up and Comer Award**

Presented annually to recognize a librarian who shows leadership early in his or her career. While new to the profession, he/she demonstrates ability to expand the role of librarian with forward-thinking efforts that help move libraries into the future. Winners of this award will be energetic librarians who push the boundaries of originality and creativity. They will help to establish a library culture that sets high expectations, promotes learning, and creates understanding of the library as an integral part of the community. The Up and Comer Award winner will be a librarian with up to 5 years of



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experience. Only one person may receive the award each year. (Nomination period is calendar year 2016 for awards given in 2017.)

### Criteria

- a. Nominee must be within 5 years of starting their career as a librarian with an MLS degree
- b. Employed in a Virginia library as a full-time Librarian
- c. Be energetic and innovative and one who pushes the boundaries of originality and creativity
- d. Help establish a library culture that sets high standards, promotes learning, and makes the library an integral part of the community
- e. Demonstrate flexibility and adaptability
- f. Demonstrate initiative in his/her work, going above and beyond what is required

### Instructions

Line 1: Contributions to library field

Line 2: Nominator's evaluation of the contribution made by the nominee, and how it is worthy of consideration for the award

Line 3: Documentation and/or letters of support for the nominee

### Award

Plaque presented at the Annual Conference.

### **Friends of the Library Award**

Presented annually to a Friends Group in recognition of distinguished service to libraries or a library in Virginia. Friends of small, medium, and large libraries shall be given equal consideration. Nominations may be submitted by an individual, library trustee, librarian, library board, or the Virginia Library Association. Nominees who are not selected may be resubmitted with updated documentation for future consideration. (Nomination period is calendar year 2016 for awards given in 2017.)

### Instructions

Line 1: Comprehensive statement of the Group's achievements

Line 2: Library and community-related activities made on behalf of the library

Line 3: Number of members and activities of the Group

Line 4: Contributions to the library – monetary, equipment services, programs, other items

### Award

Plaque presented at the Annual Conference



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### **George Mason Award**

The George Mason Award is made as deemed appropriate but not necessarily annually. It may be presented to an individual librarian, library or organization distinguished for advocacy of libraries and/or information access, or to an institution, business, or academic program whose activity has contributed to the development, growth and extension of library and information services in the local community, the state, or nationally. If awarded to an institution, business, etc., at least one name will be cited. (Nomination period is calendar year 2016 for awards given in 2017.)

### Criteria

Significant contributions in at least one of the following:

- a. Promotion of library services through exemplary performance and recognition by the public served
- b. Creative application of the use of technology in the delivery of library and information services
- c. Design and implementation of an enlightened management and personnel system which substantially improves library and information services
- d. Design or creation of technological or human systems programs or devices which substantially improve library and information services
- e. Promotion and development of improved public understanding of library and information services
- f. Creation of original work regardless of the medium used which substantially contributes to the improvement of library and information services
- g. Promotion or development of a sustained legislative approach to improving the ability of libraries to provide for expanded services to users
- h. Promotion or development of a program resulting in a sustained increase in voluntary support for library and information activities
- i. Significant influence on attitudes of public or private officials who are in a position to support the improvement of the library and information services
- j. Leadership and service contributing to the development and effectiveness of the goals and objectives of the Virginia Library Association

### Instructions

Line 1: Contributions to library field or information access

Line 2: Nominator's evaluation of the contribution made by the nominee, and how it is worthy of consideration for the award

Line 3: Documentation and/or letters of support for the nominee

Line 4: Number of attachments



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### Award

Plaque presented at the Annual Conference. Winner/Honoree (or one representative of the honored group), will receive free registration, one night's lodging, and one day's meals during the conference.

### Honorary Life Membership

Eligibility for nomination should be confined to Trustees or former Trustees, Friends of Virginia Libraries, and Virginia librarians who have held membership and who have made outstanding contributions to the association. A list of nominees is sent to the Executive Director to be verified for eligibility before it is submitted to Council and voted on by the membership in the annual ballot.

### Instructions

Line 1: Biographical data

Line 2: Significant contributions to VLA (100 word limit)

Line 3: Documents, testimonials, news stories  
or other similar supporting evidence

Line 4: Approximate years nominee has been a member of VLA

### Award

Plaque presented at the Annual Conference. Honoree receives full benefits of membership at no cost, and complimentary registration for annual conferences. Nominees who are not selected may be resubmitted with updated documentation for future consideration.

### Trustee Library Award

Presented annually in recognition of distinguished service to libraries or a library in Virginia. The Trustee honored may have served on the local, state, regional, or national level, or at a combination of levels. Trustee groups of small, medium, and large libraries shall be given equal consideration. The Awards and Recognition Committee judges are authorized to give no award when, in its opinion, no sufficiently outstanding achievement is brought to its attention. Nominations may be submitted by an individual library trustee, librarian, library board or the Virginia Library Association. Nominees who are not selected may be resubmitted with updated documentation for future consideration. (Nomination period is calendar year 2016 for awards given in 2017.)

### Instructions

Line 1: Comprehensive statement of the trustee's achievements

Line 2: Library-related activities such as board service, library association service, with offices held, dates of service, titles given, awards received. List in chronological order



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Line 3: Library accomplishment: this would include assessment and description of the nominee's contributions to library development that resulted from the library activities listed on Line 2

Line 4: Comments, if any, which are pertinent to the nomination and which do not fall into any of the areas above. Also, any non-Library activities that are pertinent to this award.

Note: Signatures for all nominators or co-sponsors along with address, telephone number, and e-mail should be supplied.

### Award

Plaque presented at the Annual Conference.