

Virginia Library Association: List of Awards

The 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. Nominees must be employed by or associated with an academic or research library. 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. The award consists of a certificate or plaque presented at the Annual Conference and a complimentary ticket to the Scholarship and Awards Banquet.

The 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. Nominees must be employed by or associated with a public library. Projects, programs, or services should demonstrate creativity, quality, and innovation within the context of a public 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. The award consists of a certificate or plaque presented at the Annual Conference and a complimentary ticket to the Scholarship and Awards Banquet.

The Up and Comer Award

This award recognizes a librarian who shows leadership early in his or her career. While new to the profession, he/she expands the role of librarian with forward-thinking efforts that help move libraries into the future. Winners of this award will be energetic librarians, with less than five years of professional experience, 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 5 or less years of experience. Only one person may receive the award each year. Self-nominations are acceptable. Criteria for award include: MLS degree; Nominees must be employed as a full or part-time librarian in a Virginia library for five (5) years or fewer; Be energetic and innovative and one who pushes the boundaries of originality and creativity. The award consists of a certificate or plaque presented at the Annual Conference and a complimentary ticket to the Scholarship and Awards Banquet.

Donna G. Cote Librarian of the Year Award

The award recognizes exemplary achievement of a working Virginia librarian who has made a significant contribution(s) at any level of librarianship during the nomination period. The award is named after Ms. Cote who worked for the award-winning Central Rappahannock Regional Library for 44 years, serving as Library Director for 34 years. A dedicated public servant and visionary leader, she made access for all her motto and provided cutting-edge technologies and learning opportunities for library customers the driving force of the library's mission. Ms. Cote was the recipient of numerous awards including the Elizabeth M. Lewis Award from the Virginia

Public Library Directors Association (VPLDA) and was named Outstanding Library Director in 2003 by VPLDA.

Criteria for award include:

- MLS degree holder, or a certified school/media specialist in Virginia.
- 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

The award consists of a certificate or plaque presented at the Annual Conference and a complimentary ticket to the Scholarship and Awards Banquet.

George Mason Award

Individuals (librarians or professional associates), libraries, or other organizations distinguished for advocacy of libraries and/or information access are eligible. Institutions, businesses, or academic programs whose activities have contributed to the development, growth, and extension of library and information services in the local community, the state, or the nation are also eligible. The award consists of a plaque presented at the annual conference Scholarship and Awards Banquet, one day's food and lodging for the honoree or one representative of the honored group or organization.

Honorary Life Membership

Eligibility for nomination is open to all persons who have worked in an/or supported Virginia libraries and the association and who have made outstanding contributions to Virginia librarianship. Nominees are voted on by the VLA membership in the year in which the individual is nominated. Election of nominee(s) by the membership bestows on the honorary life member(s) full benefits of membership without dues. A plaque honoring a life member is presented at the annual conference.

Friends of the Library Award

This award is presented to a Friends group in recognition of distinguished service to libraries or a library in Virginia. The award consists of a plaque presented at the annual conference Scholarship and Awards Banquet, one day's food and lodging for the honoree or one representative of the honored group or organization.

Trustee Library Award

This award recognizes the 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. The award consists of a plaque presented at the annual conference Scholarship and Awards Banquet, one day's food and lodging for the honoree or one representative of the honored group or organization.