



Public Librarian of the Year

(Sponsored by the Walter H. Kaiser Award)

Background: The MLA Librarian of the Year has been awarded for more than thirty years, with the qualifications redefined in 2012 and again in 2019. In 2020, with the addition of a new MLA Lifetime Achievement Award that is open to librarians from all types of libraries, the Librarian of the Year Award qualifications were updated to recognize a public librarian and the name of the award was changed to Public Librarian of the Year.

Purpose: The MLA Public Librarian of the Year Award recognizes a librarian's outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the library community.

Eligibility: Library staff who have earned an MLS or equivalent master's degree and currently work in a Michigan public library may be nominated for the award. Only one award may be given in a year.

Nominee must:

- Have earned an MLS or equivalent master's degree
- Be an active member of the Michigan Library Association
- Be currently working in a Michigan public library
- Have at least five (5) years of library experience
- Demonstrate a commitment to Michigan libraries and the Michigan Library Association.

Nominee should be able to demonstrate they have, in the past year:

- Provided innovative service to their community, which has enhanced the image or visibility of the library; or
- Promoted collaboration among libraries and librarians; or
- Demonstrated leadership in professional and community activities; or
- Initiated leading edge ideas that can be modelled or scaled for other libraries' use; or
- Mentored and/or empowered library staff to achieve significant professional growth; or
- Been a catalyst in special areas such as intellectual freedom, library innovation, outreach, and/or equity, diversity and inclusion.

Nomination packet should include:

- Nominee's contact information (name, library affiliation, address, phone, email address)
- Nominator's contact information (name, address, phone, email address)
- Letter of nomination
- Minimum of one letter of support, maximum of three letters of support
- Maximum of three pages of other supporting documentation as appropriate

Nomination letter should tell the awards work group:

- Reason for nominating individual for this specific award
- Events, projects, or circumstances that illustrate the reason for this nomination
- Current and previous professional position(s), educational qualifications, professional organization memberships and offices, community activities, awards or recognitions, and any other relevant information
- In a field of qualified candidates, what makes this nominee stand out?
- Nominee's involvement in the Michigan Library Association

Nomination packet should be submitted via MLA's website: <https://www.milibraries.org/call-for-nominations-mla-awards>

Send questions to: mla@milibraries.org

Nomination deadline (extended): Friday, July 16, 2021