

# The 2005 AASL/Highsmith Research Grant Application

Sponsored by  
**The American Association of School Librarians (AASL)**  
a division of the American Library Association (ALA)  
and  
**Highsmith Inc.**

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Dates For Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

ALA/AASL Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Host, if applicable (i.e., organization, library, consortium, etc.):

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Support or Commitment, if applicable \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Abstract of Proposed Research Project (50 words or less):

## **I. Definition and Purpose of the Grant(s):**

AASL/Highsmith Research Grants are given to one or more school library media specialists, library educators, library information science or education professors to conduct innovative research aimed at measuring and evaluating the impact of school library media programs on learning and education. The study should have the potential to serve as a model for future school library media research, and researchers should furnish documentation of the results of their work.

Special consideration will be given to pilot research studies that employ experimental methodologies.

Winners of AASL/Highsmith Research Grants will be expected to present the results of their projects at the ALA Annual Conference in the year following the year of their grant (e.g. if the grant is awarded in 2005, the winner(s) will present a program at the 2006 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA). Winners will also be expected to publish a summary of their findings in *School Library Media Research* (formerly *School Library Media Quarterly*) and/or *Knowledge Quest*.

## **II. Number of Grant(s):**

Up to two grants may be awarded each year. Each grant consists of an amount up to \$2,500. In the event that only one recipient is selected, that recipient may be granted \$5,000 if their proposal is deemed worthy by the AASL/Highsmith Research Grant Selection Committee. If no applications meet the selection criteria appropriately, the committee is not obligated to present a grant.

Winners(s) will receive the full amount of the grant up front. A progress report on the research is required by the AASL office approximately six months after the grant is awarded.

## **III. Deadline:**

Ten (10) copies of the application and all attachments must be received in the AASL office by **February 1, 2005**, Return to: AASL/Highsmith Research Grant, c/o American Association of School Librarians, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2795.

## **IV. Criteria:**

The AASL/Highsmith Research Grant Selection Committee will evaluate applications on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Potential to measure and/or evaluate the impact of school library media programs on learning and education;
2. Originality of the research project and methodology;
3. Potential for replication;
4. Demonstrated ability of the applicant(s) to undertake and successfully complete the project;
5. Evidence that sufficient time and resources have been allocated to the effort;
6. Support and commitment (financial and otherwise) by institutions and organizations to the project;
7. Clarity and completeness of the proposal;
8. Personal resume of individual applicant attached; and
9. Personal membership in ALA/AASL at the time of application by the applicant.

## **V. Form and/or Type of Grant(s):**

The grant given will be monetary. Amount to be determined by number of winners, and not to exceed \$5,000.

## **VI. For Further Information:**

Contact AASL, 50 E Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795; 800-545-2433, ext. 4386; aasl@ala.org.

## 1. Application Narrative (Limit 2 typewritten pages)

### a. Statement of the Problem

This section should identify the problem to be studied and place it in the context of the goals of the Grant specified in the first six evaluative criteria listed in Section IV.

### b. Goals and Objectives of the Research Project

This section should provide a clear and concise description of the research question(s) to be answered and the impact of the study on school library media programs and learning and education.

### c. Planned Activities

This section should provide a detailed description of the proposed organization and implementation of the project and a work plan that includes a complete schedule of activities. You should furnish whatever details will allow an evaluator of the application to understand the project. Please describe in sequence the activities and events during the grant period. It is expected that the project will be completed within 12 months. Extension to 18 months may be granted upon request.

### d. Possibilities for Dissemination\*

This section should describe a plan for disseminating the results of the project. The plan should include a presentation at an annual AASL Research Forum and a summary of the findings to be published in *School Library Media Research* (formerly *School Library Media Quarterly*) and/or *Knowledge Quest*. Optional plans might include presentations at other meetings, an article, book, video, submission to ERIC, or software program.

- \*Notes:
1. If the project results in a print or non-print product suitable for sale, ALA/AASL Publishing Services has the right of first refusal. In the event that ALA/AASL Publishing Services does not publish the product, the right of refusal passes to the donor and the division is obligated to solicit a publishing proposal from the donor. If the division does not enter into a publishing agreement with donor pursuant to its right of refusal, donor nonetheless retains the right to match any publishing agreement the division may subsequently solicit or receive from a third party. The division will provide copies of such third party proposals to the donor and the donor will have 15 days from receipt of such proposals from the division in which to exercise its right to match the third party proposal.
  2. If the project results in a periodical article, the ALA/AASL periodical appropriate for the subject matter has the right of first refusal.
  3. In any publication or presentation of the results, the grantee shall credit the American Association of School Librarians and the donor for their respective roles in the administration and/or funding of the grant.

## 2. Budget (Limit 1 typewritten page)

The budget should include all costs that can be specifically identified with the proposal and should show both costs being covered by other sources and the amount being requested from the AASL/Highsmith Research Grant.

Possible categories are:

- a. Salaries and wages.
  - Project director
  - Clerical, etc.
  - Fringe benefits for salaried personnel
- b. Consultant services.
- c. Travel for work on the project (See note 3 below).
- d. Supplies and materials.
- e. Other, including such costs as rental of space and/or equipment, communications, and computer services.
- f. Dissemination costs.

- Notes:
1. The applicant should indicate the extent of outside commitment of support or any parent organization. If the applicant is to be given leave for the research project, this should be noted. No specific financial commitments by the institution or outside organizations are required.
  2. Institutional overhead is not an acceptable budget item within the parameters of the AASL/Highsmith Research Grant, nor should overhead be listed as institutional support.
  3. If travel or dissemination of results is in the budget, it must be less than 10% of the total.

**AASL/HIGHSMITH RESEARCH GRANT**  
**Six-Month Report**

Please answer the following questions as succinctly as possible (Limit 4 typewritten pages)

1. What activities have been completed?
  
2. What remains to be done?
  
3. What problems do you anticipate?
  
4. How do you plan to overcome these problems?
  
5. At this point in your work, what do you think the results will be?