



Freedom to Read Foundation

50 EAST HURON STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611
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Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship

What is the Conable Scholarship?

The Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) offers an annual scholarship for library school students and new professionals to attend [ALA's Annual Conference](#). The goal of the Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship is to advance two principles that Gordon held dear: intellectual freedom and mentoring.

The Conable Scholarship provides for conference registration, transportation, housing for six nights, and per diem expenses. In return, the recipient will be expected to attend various FTRF and other intellectual freedom meetings and programs at conference, consult with a mentor/board member, and present a report about their experiences and thoughts.

The 2009 ALA Annual Conference will be held July 9–15 in Chicago, IL. The deadline for submitting an application for the 2009 Conable Scholarship is **Friday, March 20, 2009**; the award will be announced on Tuesday, April 14, 2009.

Who is eligible?

Students currently enrolled in a library and information studies degree program, and new professionals (those who are three or fewer years removed from receiving a library school degree) are eligible for the Conable Scholarship. Those interested must submit an application including two references and an essay detailing their interest in intellectual freedom issues and how conference attendance will help further that interest. Applicants are asked to attach a résumé, particularly those who are working professionals.

Note: If the recipient is already registered for ALA's Annual Conference, he or she will have the conference registration fee refunded.

Who was Gordon M. Conable?

Gordon Conable was a California librarian and intellectual freedom champion who served several terms as president of the Freedom to Read Foundation. His unexpected death in 2005 inspired his wife and FTRF to create the [Conable Fund](#), which provides funding for the Conable Scholarship.

Gordon was executive vice president for public libraries at Library Systems and Services, Inc. (LSSI) in Riverside, CA. He was responsible for management and performance of LSSI's public library contracts, including the 30-branch Riverside County, CA system. He also served as director of the Monroe County (MI) Library System from 1988–1998; during his tenure there, he withstood an intense controversy over Madonna's book *Sex*. Before that he was associate director of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library in Washington. For his efforts, Conable was a recipient of the Freedom to Read Foundation [Roll of Honor Award](#) and the [John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award](#) for “intellectual freedom fighters.” In 1994, he was the first librarian recognized as Michigan's Public Administrator of the Year.



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GORDON M. CONABLE CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP 2009 APPLICATION FORM

Please fax this form to (312) 280-4227; email to ftfrf@ala.org; or mail to Freedom to Read Foundation, c/o Conable Scholarship, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Questions? Email Jonathan Kelley at jokelley@ala.org or call (800) 545-2433 x4226. **Applications are due March 20, 2009.**

Date _____

APPLICANT INFORMATION

First Name _____ **M.I.** _____ **Last Name** _____

Preferred Address _____

Continued _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone (day) _____ **Phone (eve.)** _____

E-mail _____

Check one: I am currently enrolled in a library/information studies degree program.

Name of Institution: _____

I am a working librarian with less than three years' experience.

Name of Institution: _____

I am less than three years removed from receiving a degree in library/information studies, but working in another field/currently unemployed.

ESSAY

On a separate page, please tell us in your own words why you are applying for the Conable Scholarship. Include a description of your interest in intellectual freedom issues and how you will use your attendance at an ALA conference to further your interest during and after the conference. (Max: 500 words.)

Please provide the names and contact information of two references:

Special Needs, if any:

****If you have a résumé, please include it with your application.****