

OITP seeks nominations for cutting-edge technology practices

The American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) is soliciting nominations for best library practices using cutting-edge technology.

"We want to showcase libraries that are serving their communities with novel and innovative methods and provide the library community with some successful models for delivering quality library service in new ways," said Vivian Pisano, Chair of OITP's Subcommittee on America's Libraries for the 21st Century.

Nominations should be sent to the American Library Association, Office for Information Technology Policy, 1615 New Hampshire Avenue NW, 1st Floor, Washington, D.C. 20009 by September 1, 2009. Details for the nomination process may be found on the OITP Web site, www.ala.org/oitp.

"Cutting edge" refers to tested and successful implementations of **technological** advancements used in services such as:

- Improvements in traditional services and processes by inventing/re-inventing/twisting technology
- Introduction of new, innovative services that are flexible and responsive to community needs
- Methods for connecting libraries to their communities
- Funding initiatives or organizational models that ensure library information technology will remain current

Nominations may be made for work in any of the following areas:

- Architecture and design
- Circulation (sorting, remote distribution, materials handling, delivery mechanisms)
- Collections
- Community services (to include equity, outreach, programming and assessment of services)
- E-resources management services
- Instruction/information literacy
- Knowledge creation
- Open source
- Pathfinders
- Patron services (to include self-services and privacy protection)
- Professional development
- Readers' advisory

- Reference services
- Staff management (use of self-scheduling, recruitment and evaluation)
- Unique missions
- User interface
- Web services
- Other

Nominations, including self-nominations, will be accepted in a variety of formats (which include Flickr, YouTube, video, audio, written, etc.) and should include the following:

- A description of the project/service
- An explanation of how the service/procedure is cutting-edge
- Identification of the evolution of the project (identification of need, why it is novel, funding sources/options, problems, changes, how success was measured and recommendations)

Nominations:

- Must involve the use of technology
- Must be a novel idea or implementation of a service
- Must be able to be documented for replication
- Must be for a library that has been involved in the development of the service or product (can't just buy something off the shelf) or have enhanced the product for added value

The Subcommittee on America's Libraries for the 21st Century will review all nominations and conduct selected interviews or site visits to identify those libraries that are truly offering a best practice or most innovative service. Libraries or library service areas will be publicized via the OITP Web site, highlighted through ALA publications and programs at the ALA Annual Conference in 2010.

E-mail submissions to ainouye@alawash.org

Contact:

Vivian Pisano, Chief of Information Technology
San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
415/557-4340
vpisano@sfpl.org