In the words of the ALA Memorial Resolution for Eli Oboler, passed at the 1983 Annual Conference, Eli “served the library profession with the highest distinction, as University Librarian at Idaho State University for over three decades, as member of the ALA Council from 1951 to 1959 and again from 1977 to 1981, as president of the Pacific Northwest Library Association ... as president of the Idaho Library Association,” and most significant as “one of the profession’s most eloquent champions of intellectual freedom ... as a member of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, as chair of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, and as a founder and vice-president of the Freedom to Read Foundation.”

He was our “loyal gadfly” who “constantly and impatiently demanded the dismantling of all barriers to freedom of expression.” His principal means of pursuing this noble task was his writing; he was a prolific and eloquent author of hundreds of articles, reviews, and books, many of which have been and are destined to remain widely influential. In the spirit of this achievement, this award is to be granted to what the selection committee judges to be the best published work in the area of intellectual freedom to appear in the two-year period ending in the December prior to the Annual Conference at which the award is granted.

To be considered, the work must meet the following criteria:

- It must be an article (including a review article), a series of thematically connected articles, a book, or a manual published on the local, state, or national level, in English or in English translation. It need not have appeared in the “library press.”
- It must have as its central concern one or more issues, events, questions, or controversies in the area of intellectual freedom, including matters of ethical, political, or social concern related to intellectual freedom.
- It must also be demonstrably relevant to the concerns and needs of members of the library community, including the worlds of publication (print and non-print) and communication.
- It must, in the opinion of the judges (which is final), meet high standards of literary quality, accuracy, and responsibility. The principal focus of evaluation will, of course, be the writing, but other considerations may, in the opinion of the judges, be relevant. These may range from the use of particularly effective illustrations to recognition for the difficult nature of the background research or the subject itself, or for special courage or persistence displayed in writing and publishing the work.
- The work must have been published within the two-year period ending the December prior to the ALA Annual Conference at which it is granted. This biennial award was given first at the 1986 Annual Conference in New York, for writing which appeared in print in the two years 1984 and 1985. The 2020 award is for work published between 2018 and 2019.
Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award
Nomination Form

Author(s): ____________________________________________________________

Title of Work: ________________________________________________________

Type of Work (select one):
□ Article  □ Book  □ Other

Full Citation: Please include name of publisher, date and place of publication, periodical title if appropriate, volume/issue numbers if appropriate, and pagination.
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________

Contact information for Author(s): Please include mailing address, phone number, and email.
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________

Contact information for Publisher: Please include name mailing address, and email.
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Reason for nomination: Please describe in detail why you feel the publication should receive the award, including any special circumstances about this nomination.
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Updated June 2020
Is this a self-nomination? □ Yes □ No

**Nominator:** Please include your contact information: name, organization, position, mailing address, phone number, email, and website.

Date 4 (four) copies of the work were sent to OIF

Nominations and supporting evidence should be sent via email, or mail to:

ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom
225 Michigan Ave, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60601

Email: ifrt@ala.org
Questions? Call 312-280-4226 or 800-545-2433 ext. 4226

**Nominations must be received by December 1**