

### **1. Name of the Grant**

The Gail Schlachter Memorial Research Grant

### **2. Definition, Purpose and Criteria of the Grant**

The Gail Schlachter Memorial Research Grant offers financial support to an individual or collaborative group conducting research into reference or user services. Research projects should aim to better understand or answer key questions related to connecting people to resources, information services, and collections. The Jury would welcome proposals that involve innovative uses of technology and proposals that involve cooperation between libraries, between libraries and other agencies, or between librarians and persons in other disciplines. The Gail Schlachter Memorial Research Grant Jury will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- The research problem is clearly defined, with a specific question or questions that can be answered by collecting data. The applicant(s) clearly describe a strategy for data collection whose methods are appropriate to the research question(s).
- The research project can be completed in the one-year term of the grant.
- The research has the potential to address a currently critical issue in reference and user services service that is national in scope. The research has potential to provide a useful addition to the existing library literature.
- The applicant(s) demonstrate ability to undertake and successfully complete the project. The application provides evidence that sufficient time and resources have been allocated to the effort. Appropriate institutional commitment to the project has been secured, as indicated on the application form.
- Preference will be given to works that would not be created without this grant.
- At least one member of a collaborative team must be a member of ALA.
- The applicant(s) demonstrate commitment to disseminate research findings through one or more of RUSA's available platforms (RUSQ journal, poster session, online learning, etc)

### **3. Number and Frequency of Grants**

One grant per fiscal year will be awarded, provided that qualified candidates and funding are available.

### **4. Selection of the Jury or Review Committee**

As prescribed within the Scholarship and Grants Manual of ALA and the RUSA Committee Appointment Policy, the Jury will consist of at least three members including one chair. The RUSA President will appoint the chair and members of the Jury for two-year terms. Past recipients of the Gail Schlachter Memorial Research Grant can be appointed to the Jury. If necessary, final determination of the recipient shall be made by the chair. As a sponsor of the grant, family members of Gail Schlachter cannot be a member of the Jury. The Jury will be responsible for verifying the eligibility of all online applications.

As a new grant, in year one, working with the Jury Chair (or their designee), RUSA will finalize the criteria for the grant, develop the rating sheets and rubrics, and design the online application form.

## **5. Applicant Submission Requirements and Deadlines**

Applications will be accepted between November and March of the following year (5 month total application period). To apply for the research grant, all applicants must supply a formal, well written explanation of proposed research, including: estimated timeline to complete research projects, estimated budget for total project, a narrative of research proposal, and expected outcomes and methods by which to present outcomes (ex: webinar, poster session, etc.). At least one member of the research team must be a member of ALA.

Grant recipients will be required to submit a mid-year progress report and a final report on their findings. Templates for these reports will be provided by RUSA.

## **6. Screen of Candidates/Review of Applications**

The Gail Schlachter Memorial Research Grant Jury will evaluate the applicant according to RUSA's established awards procedures, based on the following criteria:

- The quality of the benefits this research will bring to reference and user services.
- A project plan that includes a timeline, clarity of purpose, defined project outcomes and careful stewardship of grant funds.
- Rankings based on a rubric that correlates with the ratings sheet.

## **7. Presentation of the Grants**

Announcement of the award will be made in April of each funding cycle, and a formal presentation will be made during Annual Conference during the RUSA President's Program. Additionally, the award will be announced via RUSA press release, and an article outlining the proposed winning research proposal will be printed in the RUSA e-newsletter. At the conclusion of the study, grant recipients are encouraged to submit an article with a summary of research results and findings to be considered for publication in RUSA's RUSQ Journal. Additional opportunities to promote the completed research funded through this grant may be pursued in the fiscal year following the award.

## **8. Amount, Form and/or Type of Award**

The total award is up to \$5,000 and will be paid by award check to the recipient in two installments.

## **9. Source of Funding or Donor Name**

The Gail Schlachter Memorial Research Grant is made possible by donations from Sandy Hirsh and Eric Goldman and other donors. Sandy and Eric's contributions established a new endowed fund, and the interest will fund the award. The attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the gifts and funding criteria.

## **10. Contact Person**

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