

ALA AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

1. **Name of Award:** Ernest A. DiMattia, Jr. Award for Innovation, and Service to Community and Profession.
2. **Definition, Purpose and Criteria:** The candidate for this award shall demonstrate leadership qualities in anticipating emerging trends in services, products and technologies that will enhance the library's position in its community. The candidate shall be an administrator in a public library setting who participates in the life of the community using membership in and volunteer service through a broad range of community organizations and projects. Sharing these traits and philosophies through active participation in professional activities will be a plus. The following criteria are among those to be considered, but are not all required in a winner:

Evidence of impact on the community through extraordinary innovation and service may include honors and awards, press reports of successful projects, letters of support from community leaders as well as from the staff and the governing body of the candidate's library, as well as any other examples.

Innovation may be measured by whether the candidate has been ahead of the curve in anticipating trends and opportunities. Some examples may be unique funding options adopted, success in forging relationships with the political environment governing the library, building a staff team with unique/non-traditional background and skills, and other criteria. Partnerships with like-minded organizations and community groups are also an indication of the candidate's impact.

Mentoring and/or teaching future leaders in the profession as well as active participation in associations, both within and outside the library world, will be an additional indicator, although not a requirement, of a candidate's suitability for the award.
3. **Number and Frequency of Award:** The award will be presented to one person annually. If a suitable candidate is not found, the award will not be presented in that year.
4. **Selection of Jury to Administer the Award:** The jury to administer the award shall be appointed by the Chair of the ALA Awards Committee, for a one year term. The chair of the jury should have served on the jury the prior year, thus serving for two years.
5. **Deadline for Nomination of Candidates:** Unless otherwise specified, the deadline for submission of nominations will be December 1 of the year preceding the presentation of the award. In some cases the deadline will be altered/extended by the ALA staff liaison to the ALA Awards Committee.

6. **Screening of Candidates and Recommendations:** The screening process shall follow procedures currently approved by the ALA Awards Committee and the ALA Staff Liaison to that Committee. The screening may be conducted in person or via the technology agreed upon by jury members.
7. **Presentation of the Award:** The award winner will be notified by the jury chair. The winner will be announced by a press release from the Staff Liaison to the Awards Committee, prior to the ALA Annual Conference. The award shall be presented during the official Awards program at the ALA Annual Conference.
8. **Form and/or Type of Award:** This is a \$5,000 cash award.
9. **Donor:** The family of Ernest A. DiMattia, Jr., will fund the award and all administrative expenses for a period of five years, after which the effectiveness of the award shall be evaluated.
10. **Evaluation:** The need for, understanding of, and effectiveness of the award shall be evaluated by the Awards Committee and the DiMattia family after no less than three years and no more than five years. Interviews with jury chairs, interviews with award winners to determine the use to which they have put the award and the value of the award to them, whether sufficient pools of candidates have been nominated, the ease with which nominations have been received, and other appropriate measures should be used.
11. **Contact Person:**

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