



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

discovering voices

TRAVELLING LIBRARIAN AWARD

ABOUT

Run in partnership with the [Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals](#), the Travelling Librarian Award builds relationships between library and information professionals in the UK and their counterparts in the US and across the Commonwealth through a professional development study tour.

The award of £3000 covers flights and some accommodation. Normally the visits last 2-3 weeks and take place during the autumn. The successful candidate is free to put together their own programme of visits (although help and advice may be available). Where possible, the recipient is encouraged to take up hospitality with international ESUs across the Commonwealth.

THE PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

The purpose of the Award is to encourage librarians, information professionals and knowledge managers to explore further areas of their professional interest through a study tour of relevant libraries, information centres and associated agencies in the United States of America or one or more Commonwealth countries.

The Award is intended to help promote the exchange of ideas through effective communication in the English language, to facilitate learning between cultures and nations, and to encourage the pursuit of best practice within a particular field of professional expertise.

Proposals might concern innovative approaches to establishing or developing library, information and knowledge services or specific aspects of such services; shared challenges that need addressing; library provision and impact on specific user groups; the curating and preservation of collections; library policies or strategies at institutional, regional or national level; future trends and directions of library services; or more general comparative studies of library, information and knowledge services' provision and operation.

Past award holders have included: Frances Tout, a community librarian with North Somerset Council, who explored community engagement projects in US public libraries; Elizabeth Williams, a subject librarian at Goldsmiths' University, who visited South Africa to explore its higher education outreach initiatives; and Kirsten McCormack, the General Services Librarian at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, who completed a tour of Australia to learn about the process of building and maintaining collections around an international sporting event.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must be:

- UK library and information professionals and;
- a personal member of CILIP at time of application.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection of the successful candidate will be based on the following criteria;

- The benefits of the project to the broader profession (and other relevant stakeholders) as well as to the award recipient.
- The relevance of the application to the purpose of the Award.
- The clarity of the proposal, including aims and objectives, presented in sufficient depth to allow the selection panel to make an informed decision as to its feasibility.
- The expected outcomes of the proposed study (e.g. its impact on professional development or place of work).
- The extent to which the proposal will further the organisational aims and purpose of CILIP and ESU and the Award.
- How extensively the study tour and its outcomes will be communicated and disseminated to interested parties before, during and after the visit in order to maximise its impact on the profession and library communities.

Your cover letter should outline the intended focus of your study tour, proposed location, and potential relevant institutions. It would set out initial thoughts relating to the planning of the project and look at the benefits of the project to the broader profession (and other relevant stakeholders) as well as the award recipient.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply by email or post with a CV, cover letter, and reference letter from your current/most recent employer. Completed application should be sent to education@esu.org or Education, ESU, Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London W1J 5ED. References may be emailed/posted separately if needed. **The deadline is Wednesday, 26th April 2017** and interviews will be held on **Wednesday, 24th May 2017**.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview at the ESU in London. A selection panel will judge all applications objectively on how well they further the aims and purposes of the award, and the evidence provided in support of this.

On return, the successful candidate will be expected to give some presentations and produce a short report. Usually, a Travelling Librarian reception is held each year when the most recent recipient has the opportunity to make a short presentation on their study visit. Past recipients have found the study tour a rewarding personal and professional experience which has often helped to advance their career. For further information please visit CILIP's website.