

Kay Poustie Scholarship 2022

for library professionals in WA

Application Guidelines



Kay Poustie OAM (1944–2009)

Kay Poustie's long and distinguished career in the library profession displayed her passion for libraries as a library manager, as a leader in the profession, and as a Member and later Chairman of the Library Board of Western Australia. In all these spheres she demonstrated hard work, dedication and a can-do attitude. As a librarian she was held in high regard by colleagues locally, nationally and internationally.

Kay began her career in Victoria before moving to Western Australia in 1978 where she had a 22-year association with the City of Stirling. In 1985 Kay became City Librarian and Manager, Libraries, Arts and Culture, with responsibility for six public libraries, 85 staff, and a \$4.5 million dollar budget, as well as community arts, exhibitions and cultural activities for the City. During this time all branches were automated, many of the libraries were relocated or renovated and she initiated a number of innovative programs.

Kay first joined the Library Board of Western Australia in 1990, serving until 1993 as a representative for the Local Government Association. She returned in 1998 and served for a further eight years as representative of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). Her ability and experience was recognised when she was elected Chairman of the Library Board briefly in 2001, and then between 2002 and 2006.

During this time, Kay oversaw major developments in relations between the State Library and WA public libraries, including the signing of the Framework Agreement and the allocation of a further \$10.3 million in state funds for library resources. Other achievements included the launch of the Better Beginnings program and the establishment of the Historical Records Rescue Consortium.

Kay was a role model and mentor for many members of the Western Australian public library profession. Her passion for library education saw her serve on the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) Board of Education, with four years as Chair, and in 1997 she was conferred with a Fellowship of the Association. She was invited to be an inaugural member of the Bertelsmann International Network of Public Libraries in 1996 contributing to scholarly research in the profession. Their objectives were "to pool international know-how, to strengthen the exchange of experience among public library experts, to develop successful concepts and above all, to promote their practical implementation".

A lifelong contributor to non-profit ventures, Kay also served in a variety of roles as a member of Zonta International and also for Meath Care. In 2008 Kay was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, and in 2010 she was recognised as a Library Board of Western Australia Fellow.

Through her work with the Library Board of Western Australia, her long and successful association with City of Stirling libraries, and her commitment to fostering potential in library professionals, Kay Poustie's legacy will live on.

About the Kay Poustie Scholarship

Traditionally the Kay Poustie Scholarship has enabled a library professional in Western Australia to undertake study locally or internationally to explore library services and best practice that can be applied to public libraries in WA.

However, the ongoing national and international COVID situation with uncertainty around borders and in-person conferences means that the 2022 Scholarship will be offered for a research project.

The State Library of Western Australia (SLWA), Public Libraries WA Inc. (PLWA), ALIAWest and numerous personal donors are financial supporters of the scholarship. To support the Kay Poustie Scholarship and read past research reports please visit

slwa.wa.gov.au/about-us/fellowships-and-scholarship

Cover image: Ruth Faulkner Library and Belmont Museum, 2019

The Scholarship

In 2022 the scholarship will be offered for a research project to the value of \$5,000.

Travel and attendance at professional development events as part of the research may be funded by the Scholarship, provided it identifies as part of the research proposal.

Priority research topics for 2022 are:

The 3 pillars of the Draft Public Library Strategy:

- Libraries Strengthening Communities
 - Literacy and lifelong learning
 - Individual and community wellbeing and resilience
 - Stronger and more connected communities
- Digitally inclusive libraries
 - Free and universal access to computers, emerging technologies and the internet
 - Building digital skills and confidence
 - Efficient access to collections and services
- Public Libraries as essential community asset
 - Impact and value of public library services as the basis for informed decisions on strategic investment in community focused services

As well as:

- Public Libraries and seniors
- Public Libraries and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- be a qualified library practitioner working within the public library network in Western Australia including the State Library of WA. If the application is from a team, then all members of the team must be qualified library practitioners working with the public library network in Western Australia including the State Library of WA;
- have at least three years' professional experience;
- be able to demonstrate a commitment to the library profession; and
- be an Australian Citizen over the age of 18.

Conditions of Scholarship

The applicant (or applicant team) will be required to:

- submit an application for the funds detailing how the project will be carried out as per the details below;
- prepare a formal written research report, suitable for presentation to their Council, Public Libraries Western Australia, and the Library Board of Western Australia, outlining the research undertaken, the findings and clear recommendations which could be applied to the Western Australian public library network;
- share the research findings and how they could be utilised to assist the WA public library network. This may be through presentations to a meeting/s and / or via an article for a professional journal, but as a minimum will include a presentation to at least one Public Libraries Western Australia meeting and a State Library of Western Australia staff meeting;
- be available for the Library Board Awards night hosted by the State Library of Western Australia in May 2022 (date to be advised);
- be available to participate in photos, sound recordings, videos and acknowledge that the State Library of Western Australia and Public Libraries Western Australia has the right to use such publicity materials in any medium (including without limitation, the internet) and in any reasonable manner it sees fit to publicise the scholarship; and
- complete the research and present the findings to SLWA and PLWA by 31 March 2023.

Eligible Costs

A maximum of \$5,000 will be awarded to one applicant (an individual or a team) with the proposed use of the funds outlined in the research project application. The funds may be applied to:

- travel to support the research;
- attendance at professional development events related to the research topic;
- other costs (detailed in the application) associated with the research; and
- detail any in kind support that the proposed project may seek or expect to receive.

Application Assessment Criteria

- The extent to which the proposal addresses the priority research topics for 2022.
- The extent to which the knowledge gained by the research will be of value and benefit to the Western Australia public library system.
- How the applicant proposes sharing the knowledge gained with the wider profession.

Merit of the applicant:

- That the applicant's current qualification (level of achievement, knowledge and expertise) is sufficient for the proposed project.
- That the applicant's written proposal and expertise is sufficient for the proposed project;
- That the applicant's written proposal and presentational of the proposal demonstrates clarity, analytical thought, and excellent communication skills;
- That the applicant displays significant commitment to the profession.

No late applications will be accepted and the decision of the Selection Panel is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Both the State Library of WA and Public Libraries WA reserve the right not to award a Scholarship.

The Selection Panel

Mrs Margaret Allen, PSM, FALIA, CEO and State Librarian

Mr Gareth Dixon AALIA (CP), Committee Member Public Libraries WA (Inc), City of Armadale

Dr Kerry Smith FALIA, AM, Retired Associate Professor, Curtin University

The Application Process

The closing date for applications for the 2022 Kay Poustie Scholarship is 5:00pm Monday 28 February 2022.

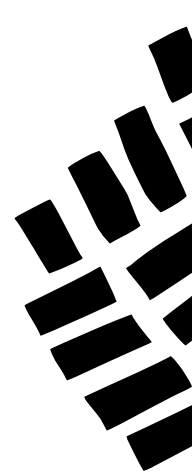
All applications are to be submitted via the Online Application form and will be acknowledged by the State Library of WA. No late applications will be accepted.

Notification Process

Applications will be shortlisted by the Selection Panel according to the application assessment criteria.

Shortlisted applicants will be required to make a presentation to the Selection Panel in the week beginning Monday 14 March 2022. The presentation is to be a maximum of 10 minutes followed by discussion and may be presented online or in person. Regional applicants will be provided with a telephone or online presentation opportunity.

The successful applicant will be confidentially notified as soon as possible after the presentations take place.



How to submit your application.

Applicants should complete and submit the Application Form available online and include:

- A written proposal addressing the Research Project, including the issue/question, research approach, rationale, benefits and promotion.
- Names and full contact details of two referees. One referee must be your current employer indicating their support for your involvement in the project. Both referees should relate to your ability to fulfil the requirements of the Scholarship.
- Resume: your resume should indicate your career path to date including a brief statement of your career objectives and your demonstrated commitment to the library profession.
- Budget – a breakdown of what will you utilise the Scholarship for.
- If you are entering as a team – all team members must complete the above personal information.

Applications will be structured as follows and should enable the judging panel to understand the purpose and proposed outcomes as well as how the funds are to be utilised:

1. Title of research topic
2. Key topics of interest (300 words)
3. Benefits: explain how the research will benefit the Western Australian public library system (500 words)
4. The research methods/approach and what will be the end product?
5. Promotion of findings: explain how you propose to share your findings with the profession. (300 words).

More information and the application form is available online at the [State Library website](#).

For more information contact Charles Hayne on **0403 948 319** or email **media@slwa.wa.gov.au**

slwa.wa.gov.au

State Library of Western Australia
Perth Cultural Centre
25 Francis Street, Perth WA 6000

Tel: **08 9427 3111**

Email: **info@slwa.wa.gov.au**

ABN: 78 170 824 164

