

Kay Poustie Scholarship 2020

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

The Kay Poustie Scholarship enables 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.

The scholarship is a partnership between the State Library of Western Australia and Public Libraries WA Inc (PLWA). ALIA West and numerous personal donors are also 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



The Scholarship

In 2020, two bursaries of up to \$2,500 each will be offered to Western Australian public library professionals to support attendance at a library conference selected from the following list:

- The ALIA National Conference in Sydney
alia.org.au/events/17945/alia-national-2020-conference
- IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Dublin
2020.ifla.org
- The Next Library Satellite in Brisbane
slq.qld.gov.au/nextlibrarybrisbane

To qualify for the bursary applicants are required to submit a proposal for attendance which addresses both the theme of their chosen conference, explores at least one of the key topics (shown below), and demonstrates why attending the conference will enhance their professional development and provide value to the Western Australian public library network.

Following the conference, the successful applicant(s) will be required to prepare a formal report, suitable for presentation to their Council, Public Libraries Western Australia, and the Library Board of Western Australia, clearly demonstrating findings which could be applied to the Western Australian public library network. The successful applicant(s) will also be required to present publicly as detailed in the Conditions of Scholarship.

Key Topics of Interest

Next Library – Bold and Curious

Risk and failure – how can libraries encourage experimentation, deal with uncertainty, and build resilience for staff and users?

Courageous conversations – how can libraries talk frankly and respectfully about human rights, library ethics, and respond to conflicts?

Bridging the gap – how might libraries facilitate connections across divides, physical, social, cultural, or technological?

Tipping points – what opportunities are there for libraries to respond to the rapid and dramatic transformations in society, culture, and climate?

ALIA National – Courageous and Audacious

The courage to support disadvantaged and marginalised users.

The courage to work outside the comfort zone.

Being audacious in taking risks, and managing failure.

Being audacious in making the case for change.

IFLA World Library and Information Congress – Inspire, Engage, Enable, Connect

Inspiring our practice, our services and ourselves.

Engaging our communities and our stakeholders to support libraries and our services.

Enabling our staff and communities with resilience in conflict and dealing with difficult challenges.

Connecting our profession and our communities.

(Please note the IFLA WLIC conference programme is not yet released)

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- be a qualified library practitioner working within 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

Each successful applicant will be required to:

- be available for the Awards for Excellence event on the evening of **Thursday 28 May 2020** hosted by the State Library of Western Australia during Library and Information Week (if travel to Perth for successful regional applicant/s is unreasonable, we will work with you to ensure attendance can be supported online);
- attend their chosen conference in 2020;
- clearly demonstrate the use of scholarship funds to benefit their attendance at the chosen conference
- prepare a formal report, suitable for presentation to their Council, Public Libraries Western Australia, and the Library Board of Western Australia, clearly demonstrating

findings which could be applied to the Western Australian public library network.

- share the conference attendance experience and how your findings could be implemented to assist the WA public library network. This may be through a presentation to a meeting/s and/or via an article for a professional journal, but will include at least one Public Libraries Western Australia meeting and a State Library of Western Australia staff meeting; and
- be available to participate in photos, sound recordings, video (the 'publicity materials') 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.

Eligible Costs

A maximum of \$2,500 each will be awarded for up to two successful Scholarship applicants. The funds may be applied to the following:

- airfares (including airport taxes and transfers),
- domestic travel (including bus, taxi, train),
- conference registration costs,
- accommodation,
- meals and incidental expenses up to the limit defined by the ATO under their current Taxation Determination on this matter.

Applicants please note that a personal contribution may need to be made to cover full costs of your proposed conference attendance. Assurance of this should be specified in your application.

Application Assessment Criteria:

Merit of the proposal:

- the extent to which the proposal addresses the Key topics of interest;
- the extent to which the knowledge or skills gained by attending the conference will be of value and benefit to the Western Australian 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 presentation 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 PLWA 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 2020 Kay Poustie Scholarship is **5:00pm Friday 28 February 2020**.

All applications are to be submitted via the [Online Application form](#).

All applications received 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 **9 March 2020**. The presentation is to be a maximum of 10 minutes followed by discussion. Regional applicants will be provided with a telephone or online presentation opportunity.

Successful applicants will be 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, rationale, benefits and promotion;
- names and full contact details of two referees. One referee must be your current employer indicating their support for your attendance at the chosen conference. Both referees should relate to your ability to fulfil the requirements of the Scholarship;
- résumé: your résumé should indicate your career path to date including a brief statement of your career objectives and your demonstrated commitment to the library profession;
- budget: include proposed itinerary, the budget breakdown including any amount of personal contribution being made to meet the full cost of the proposal.

Applications will be structured as follows:

1. Title of chosen conference
2. Key Topics of Interest: outline the topic or topics you wish to explore at the selected conference. (300 words)
3. Rationale and Justification: outline the aspects of librarianship or library practice your chosen key topics will explore. (300 words)
4. Benefits: explain how application of the key topics will benefit the Western Australian public library system. (500 words)
5. Promotion of findings: explain how you propose to share your findings with the profession. (300 words)

A downloadable version of these Application Guidelines in pdf format is found under About Us at slwa.wa.gov.au

The Application Form is available online only at slwa.wa.gov.au/kay-poustie-scholarship-application

Due Date for Applications

Applications must be submitted electronically by **5.00pm Friday 28 February 2020** using the [Online Form](#) – only online applications will be accepted.

No late applications will be accepted.

Scholarship Announcement

The announcement of the Kay Poustie Scholarship recipient(s) will be made at the Library Board Awards for Excellence event on the evening of **Thursday 28 May 2020**, hosted by the State Library of Western Australia during Library and Information Week. Where conference registration for the successful applicant(s) is required before this date, prior notification will be provided to enable timely registration.

Further Enquiries

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slwa.wa.gov.au

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