



:. ontario library association

OLA Awards and Recognition

The Ontario Library Association (OLA) presents awards for all 6 divisions in addition to association-wide awards. Unless otherwise noted, all award nominators and nominees must be a current OLA member in the respective division the nomination is submitted to. Please review the nomination submission process for each award for details.

For questions and more information about OLA and divisional awards, please contact the OLA office by email at awards@accessola.com or phone at 416-363-3388.

OLA Awards

OLA Archival and Preservation Achievement Award

Recognizing Ontario-based individuals and institutions that have made significant achievements on a personal or institutional level in the field of preservation and/or conservation for library and/or archival materials.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

OLA Champion Award

This award has been developed to recognize unique partnerships with the Ontario Library Association. This partnership must demonstrate significant contributions and commitment to the association and its programs and services through this venture. This individual, corporation, group, or association has provided connections, support, and exposure outside the regular OLA audience adding great value to the OLA.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

OLA Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award

The OLA Board of Directors bestows an honorary life membership on a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the libraries of Ontario through their work within the Association. The work done must be seen as significant by members from more than one type of library.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference



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OLA Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award

The Ontario Library Association Board of Directors established the Award for Intellectual Freedom in 1997 to recognize the courage shown by individuals and organizations in defending the rights of library patrons to full access to information. In 2000, the Award was renamed the Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award in memory of the former Chief Librarian of Toronto Public Library whose efforts on behalf of intellectual freedom in Canada are legendary.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

OLA Library Building Awards

To recognize excellence in library building projects in Ontario. This award has two categories: New Library Buildings and Library Architectural and Design Transformation. These awards are presented every other year.

Awarded at: Annual Institute on the Library as Place

OLA Media and Communications Award

Established to reward individuals and companies that present libraries and librarians in a constructive light, breaking down stereotypical images often associated with the profession.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

OLA President's Award for Exceptional Achievement

Acknowledging an outstanding action or contribution that has in a major or unique way enhanced or furthered librarianship in Ontario. The selection is at the full discretion of the President of the OLA. Awards are only given if there is something of true historic significance to recognize.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

OLA Technical Services Award

Recognizing the Ontario librarian, teacher-librarian, technician, library worker, or department who has made a substantial achievement to their institution and/or the library profession in the area of technical services.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

The Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship

The Canadian Library Association (CLA) previously offered the Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship. OLA began to administer the award after CLA's dissolution in 2016. This award is presented to a candidate that has demonstrated exceptional success in enhancing the public recognition and appreciation of librarianship.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference unless otherwise arranged



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L'Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario (ABO-Franco) Awards

ABO-Franco Le Prix Micheline-Persaud

Un prix destiné à honorer une personne, un groupe ou une institution qui s'est distingué dans le développement et la promotion des services de bibliothèque en français en Ontario.

Présenté à: OLA Super Conference

Ontario College and Univeristy Library Association (OCULA) Awards

OCULA Award for Special Achievement

Honouring exceptional achievement(s) in at least one of the following areas over the past two years: Service to OLA/OCULA and any other library organization, research and publication in areas of academic librarianship, or planning and implementing a library program which serves as a model to others.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

OCULA Lifetime Achievement Award

To recognize an individual working in libraries in Ontario who has made an outstanding contribution to academic or research library development.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

OCULA Student Award – Lightning Strikes

To promote OCULA to LIS students and provide an opportunity to participate in the OLA Super Conference. Students present short sessions at the OLA Super Conference in front of a panel of OCULA judges.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

Ontario Library Board' Association (OLBA) Awards

OLBA Joyce Cunningham Award, Public Library Board of the Year

This award is given to a Public Library Board, or two Public Library Boards that participated in a collaborative effort, that has demonstrated a high level of collaboration and innovation to produce outstanding results.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

OLBA W.J. Robertson Medallion, Public Librarian of the Year

Presented to a public librarian who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the advancement of public library service in Ontario.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference



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Ontario Library and Information Technology Association (OLITA) Awards

OLITA Project Award

Recognizing a project that demonstrates leadership in the application of technology to benefit library users, enhance library operations, and extend partnerships.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

Ontario Public Library Association (OPLA) Awards

OPLA Advocacy in Action, Excellence in Children's or Teen Services Award

This award is to honour excellent library staff working with children or youth. The award can be given to an individual or group. It can be a service-based project; a unique program, a community partnership, an outreach endeavour or an advocacy effort that should be recognized and celebrated.

Awarded at: Child and Youth Services Expo

OPLA Children's or Youth Services Librarian of the Year

Given to honour a children's or youth librarian who has made a positive impact on children's or youth services librarianship.

Awarded at: Child and Youth Services Expo

OPLA James Bain Medallion, Public Library Board Member of the Year

Awarded to a library board member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in governing a public library in Ontario.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

OPLA Kickstart to Participation

An exciting one-year opportunity for a recent library program graduate. Candidates must currently be working in an Ontario public library and have graduated from their library program in the past three years. The successful candidate will join the OPLA Council as a non-voting representative, yet will participate in discussions and projects that OPLA Council is undertaking that year.

Awarded at: The beginning of a new council term

OPLA Leadership in Adult Readers' Advisory

An initiative of the Readers' Services Sub-Committee of OPLA. The purpose of this award is to honour excellence in readers' advisory service to adults.

Awarded at: RA in a Day Event



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OPLA Lifetime Achievement Award

Presented to a library staff member who has given lifelong service to the profession and has contributed significantly to the growth and innovation of public libraries in Ontario.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

Ontario School Library Association (OSLA) Awards

OSLA Administrator of the Year Award

This award is to honour a school administrator who has brought their influence to bear on the development of effective school library information centres and of school library program both in a school board and among their peers.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

OSLA Award for Special Achievement

To honour individuals or organizations outside individual schools or school boards which have provided significant support to teacher-librarians and school library information centre development in Ontario through exceptional projects and activities.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference

OSLA Teacher-Librarian of the Year Award

This award is given to honour a teacher-librarian who has demonstrated leadership in the implementation of school library programs through collaboration and inquiry – based learning. Projects, programs, and activities cited should exemplify the vision of Together for Learning in their School Library or Learning Commons.

Awarded at: OLA Super Conference