



OCLC Award for Innovative Cooperation Initiatives in the Caribbean

About OCLC

Founded in 1967, OCLC is a nonprofit computer library service and research organization dedicated to the public purposes of furthering access to the world's information and reducing library costs. More than 72,000 libraries in 171 countries have used OCLC services to locate, acquire, catalog, lend, preserve and manage library materials. OCLC and its member libraries cooperatively produce and maintain WorldCat, the world's largest online database for discovery of library resources.

Every day, from our world headquarters in Dublin (Columbus), Ohio, and locations around the world, OCLC employees help libraries offer better service to users. Our innovative online services and software provide libraries with the latest developments in information technology to help meet the growing demands of an increasingly high-tech society.

Award Guidelines

1) Name of the Award:

OCLC Award for Innovative Cooperation Initiatives in the Caribbean

OCLC is committed to international cooperation, research and innovation for the advancement of librarianship. This Award recognizes a school, academic, public or national library for an innovative initiative that leverages cooperation in the planning and implementation of a program or service—ideally using technology—for the benefit of its employees, users or community.

Nature of the Award: A plaque and \$500 USD credit toward a subscription-based OCLC service.

2) Goal of the Award:

The Award aims to increase the visibility of innovative cooperation initiatives of libraries, information and archival services throughout the Caribbean. It recognizes the improvement of services offered by institutions for the benefit of users and/or communities served.

3) How the Award is granted:

The Award is given to a library, information or archival service. The Award is granted annually during the Red Carpet Evening—ACURILEAN Evening of Awards. The inaugural Award will be granted in 2015. The Award is given to an institution, not an individual. If the proposals submitted in a given year do not meet the basic criteria, the jury reserves the right to forego giving the Award that year. Proposals may be submitted by an institution, or by a single individual, or a group of individuals on behalf of an institution, so long as the leadership of the institution is in agreement with the information submitted.

The winning institution should be informed two months prior to the ACURIL Conference so that a representative from the institution can make arrangements to attend the conference to receive the Award, as well as provide a brief presentation on the project to ACURIL Conference attendees.

4) Who is eligible:

This Award is open to all projects that demonstrate some form of innovative cooperation in libraries, information or archival services. Qualifying institutions must be located within ACURIL's territories.

Proposals must include the following information:

- Name and brief description of the institution;
- Explanation of the goals and objectives of the project;
- Methodology, resources and tools used to implement the project;
- Outcomes and benefits experienced by the institution(s) and/or end users as a result of this project.

5) Scope of qualifying submissions:

The jury will consider submissions from eligible institutions described above. The project may encompass improvements to internal operations and/or external services for end users. The project must have been initiated no more than two years prior to the date of the upcoming ACURIL Conference (e.g., for the June 2014 ACURIL Conference, the project must have been launched between March 31, 2012, and March 31, 2014).

6) Selection criteria:

- **Originality and innovation:**
 - o What is original and innovative about the project—its theoretical basis, application, use of new technologies, impact, etc.?
 - o Can it be replicated by other institutions?
- **Improvement of services:**
 - o How has the project improved the institution's impact?
 - o What metrics were used to define the success of the project?
- **Cooperation:**
 - o Was cooperation with other units, services, libraries or other groups an integral element of this project?
- **Proposal's presentation:**
 - o What is the quality of the submission, including the clarity and overall presentation of the project?
 - o Is the description clear and precise?
 - o Is it convincing that this is a great project?
- **Supporting documentation:**
 - o Does the submission include supporting evidence of the project's success beyond the metrics used, such as remarks and reactions from users or those who have benefited from the project, publicity, etc.?

7) Selection committee:

ACURIL's Award Committee will be in charge of receiving and reviewing the applications. It is recommended to have OCLC closely involved and informed with the process every year. The members of the Award Committee must respect the rules set for the Award. Any changes to the rules should be submitted to the sponsoring entity, OCLC. The jury's selection is final and without appeal.

8) Awarding the prize:

The winner is announced publicly at ACURIL annually. A plaque will be given to the winning institution. The winning institution will be informed prior to the ACURIL Conference so that a representative from the institution can make arrangements to attend the conference to receive the Award, as well as provide a brief presentation on the project to ACURIL Conference attendees. The winning library's designated contact will assist in the development and distribution of a short news announcement that OCLC and ACURIL will feature on their websites and promote via email campaigns and social media pushes.

9) Submission deadline:

The deadline to submit proposals is April 30 of each year.