

Current Comments®

The New ISI Fellowships Honor Outstanding Librarians and Graduate Students in the Library and Information Sciences

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Recently, when discussing the many fine awards that honor creativity in science,¹ I said that they serve many purposes. A commercial organization, whether a drug firm or an information company, markets its wares in many ways. Part of that marketing effort must be devoted to public relations. Some organizations, both nonprofit and for-profit, use the equivalent of press agents to promote their images. Even physicians today engage in this practice if they are public figures.² But there are other creative ways to engage in public relations that can simultaneously improve a firm's image among its clientele and provide opportunities for advancement of the profession it serves. Not the least of these is a scholarship or fellowship program.

In 1953, when I completed two years as a member of the Welch Medical Library Indexing Project at Johns Hopkins University,³ I decided to attend a summer session at Columbia University's School of Library Service. At that time, I was told that my opportunities for advancement in the library field would be limited unless I had a library degree. In fact, this proved not to be entirely correct, because I was soon offered several interesting positions in industry and government. Nevertheless, I felt compelled to acquire the appropriate academic credentials. I chose Columbia pri-

marily because it was in New York City, where my family and son lived. But it was also the institution which some of the colleagues I respected most had attended. They included Frank B. Rogers, Samuel Lazerow, and others too numerous to mention here.

I signed up for the summer session not knowing whether I would be able to finance the full-time one-year program. I was able to cover some of my expenses by working part-time at the Old Hickory Bookshop, where I eventually recataloged and shelved the entire collection of old and rare scientific and medical books. Several years later, when proprietor Murray Gottlieb died, his widow, Johanna, continued the Old Hickory Bookshop in Maryland, and established, in 1956, the Murray Gottlieb Prize in his honor. The \$100 prize is still awarded annually to a health sciences librarian who has written the best unpublished essay on the history of medicine and allied sciences.

After several weeks at Columbia, I was called into the office of Dean Carl White, a wonderfully agreeable man. He told me that the publishers of the *Encyclopedia Americana* had just established the Grolier Society Bibliographic Fellowship, and suggested that I apply for it. My application was endorsed by Rogers, director, Armed Forces Medical Library, now the National Library of

Medicine (NLM); Ralph Shaw, director, National Agricultural Library (NAL); and Verner W. Clapp, chief assistant librarian, Library of Congress (LC). These recommendations, and the small number of applicants, meant that I was, as we say in the US, a "shoo-in." So I became the first Grolier Fellow. The \$1,000 stipend was a blessing—without it, I could not have paid the high tuition at Columbia.

This short autobiographical diversion explains, in part, my commitment to privately funded scholarship programs. Most governments do not ensure that every well-qualified person can finish a higher education program. And there is a paucity of scholarship money for doctoral candidates in many fields, particularly in a new field like information science. Although the scholarship I received at Columbia enabled me to complete only a master's program, it was the first step toward the doctorate I took later in linguistics at the University of Pennsylvania. Today, there are enough people who can manage to get through a master's program, but we still need more and better qualified doctorates. It is for this reason that ISI[®] is expanding its program of awards and prizes to promote scholarly excellence.

Of course, fellowships can be used to support various postgraduate education programs. Some of the awards I describe here are intended to aid many kinds of "students"—even experienced librarians need an opportunity for continuing education or travel. The other awards we sponsor are more specifically directed to regular doctoral programs.

In 1979, we began our awards program at ISI with our cosponsorship of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Award for Excellence in Scientific Reviewing.⁴ Each year, the NAS award recognizes authors of outstanding

reviews. We established the award, along with Annual Reviews, Inc., in honor of James Murray Luck, founder of *Annual Reviews*.

In 1980, ISI and the American Society for Information Science (ASIS) established the ASIS Outstanding Information Science Teacher Award. This annual award recognizes individuals who demonstrate sustained excellence in teaching information science.⁵ More recently, ISI established the John Desmond Bernal Prize for outstanding achievement in the social studies of science. The Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) administers this award. In 1981, Derek J. de Solla Price was the first to be honored.⁶ At the annual meeting of 4S in Philadelphia last October, Robert K. Merton was the second to be awarded the Bernal Prize.

I would also like to mention another award established by ISI in 1982. This £250 prize is awarded annually to the author of the best paper published in the *Journal of Information Science*, the journal of the Institute of Information Scientists in the UK. Bertram C. Brookes, formerly of the University of London and recently on the faculty of the University of Western Ontario, Canada, received the first ISI Award for his series of articles on the foundations of information science.⁷⁻¹⁰

The reason for our involvement in these awards is a simple one. As a provider of information services to working scientists and other scholars, ISI appreciates the significance of critical reviewing. Our citation studies often call attention to the key role of reviews. However, there had not been any formal recognition of their importance—until the establishment of the NAS award mentioned above. Similarly, the ASIS and 4S awards are intended to provide formal recognition for accomplishment in the

fields of information science and the sociology and history of science. After all, that is what awards are all about.

ISI is now establishing a series of fellowships and scholarships for talented librarians and graduate students of library and information science. These, I believe, are two additional neglected areas worthy of recognition. ISI is sponsoring the new awards, but as with all our other awards, we aren't making up the rules for selection. Each of the organizations that will administer these awards has its own purposes, eligibility requirements, submission procedures, and judging criteria. Table 1 lists our new awards, and identifies people to contact for more information about them.

The first of our new awards is the Samuel Lazerow Fellowship for Research in

Acquisitions or Technical Services in an Academic or Research Library. It was created in memory of a close friend and colleague of more than 30 years.¹¹ Samuel Lazerow was an administrator in each of the three national US libraries—NLM, NAL, and LC. He was also senior vice president for administration at ISI for almost ten years until his death in August 1981.

Will Rogers is widely quoted as having said, "I never met a man I didn't like." Well, I never met a person who didn't like Sam Lazerow. I feel privileged to have known him both personally and professionally. Because of his modesty, his accomplishments¹²⁻¹⁴ were not always properly recognized. During his lifetime, he continually vetoed my plans to establish a fellowship in his name, or

Table 1: New ISI® fellowships and scholarships. A=name of award. B=amount of award. C=eligible recipient. D=administering organization and contact address.

A	B	C	D
Samuel Lazerow Fellowship for Research in Acquisitions or Technical Services in an Academic or Research Library	\$1,000	Librarian	Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Sandy Whiteley, Program Officer 50 East Huron St. Chicago, IL 60611
Medical Library Association Library Fellowship	\$1,000	Librarian	Medical Library Association (MLA) Ray Palmer, Executive Director 919 North Michigan Ave. Suite 3208 Chicago, IL 60611
ISI Information Science Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship	\$1,000	Doctoral student	American Society for Information Science (ASIS) Dr. Manfred Kochen Committee Chairman University of Michigan MHRI Ann Arbor, MI 48109
ISI-Special Libraries Association Scholarship	\$1,000	Non-medical doctoral student	Special Libraries Association (SLA) Marie Gadula McLeod Young Weir Ltd. Toronto-Dominion Ctr. Commercial Union Tower P.O. Box 433 Toronto, Ontario Canada M5K 1M2
ACRL Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship	\$1,000	Doctoral student	Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Sandy Whiteley, Program Officer 50 East Huron St. Chicago, IL 60611

to pay tribute to him in other ways. This memorial to him will serve to remind his friends and colleagues of his special gifts as a manager of people and the institutions they collectively constitute.

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) administers the Lazerow Fellowship. This annual fellowship will be presented for the first time at the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in June 1983 in Los Angeles. Denise D. Bedford, assistant to the director for technical services, Stanford University Libraries, has been selected as the first recipient of the Lazerow Fellowship.

This ISI-sponsored award is one of the first to help a practicing librarian to make outstanding contributions to the field of acquisitions and technical services. Each Lazerow Fellow receives a \$1,000 grant for research, travel, or writing.

Incidentally, ISI is also planning several lectureships in honor of Lazerow. The lectures will be delivered annually at various universities with departments of library or information science. Distinguished speakers will be selected by the host universities from all the information science professions—teaching, research, administration, and librarianship.

The first lecture is scheduled for April 6, 1983, at Columbia, where Sam received his master's degree in library science. The first lecturer is Frederick Kilgour, who is well known for his work in the history of science and medicine. Among other things, Kilgour is the founder and former president of the Online Computer Library Center, Inc., (OCLC) in Dublin, Ohio. He also is the former librarian of the Yale University Medical Library. His lecture will focus on public policy issues in the national and international networking of com-

puterized data bases. The selection of Kilgour would have pleased Sam Lazerow, because of their long association and friendship. I look forward to introducing Kilgour on that occasion, arranged by the dean of the School of Library Service, Richard Darling.

Another ISI-sponsored fellowship will be administered by the Medical Library Association (MLA). The awards committee hasn't yet decided on an official name for the fellowship. It will be presented to a librarian who has made an outstanding contribution to the application of technology in delivering health sciences information. The librarian must also be a member of MLA. The fellowship will carry an honorarium of \$500 and ISI will provide an additional \$500 for administrative costs, including travel expenses. MLA will present this fellowship for the first time at its annual meeting in Houston this May.

I should point out that ISI also has a travel fellowship program although it is not openly advertised. We regularly invite distinguished librarians, information scientists, and scientists to attend several conferences held each year at ISI. We provide grants to cover their travel expenses. We expect to continue this program in the future. We hope to work with relevant professional organizations abroad as well as in the US to ensure that the best candidates are selected. I'll have more to say about that program in the future. Each ISI conference has a unifying theme and serves to introduce participants to ISI's varied programs and research projects.

In addition to the fellowships for practicing librarians, ISI is funding information science scholarships to help doctoral students finish their dissertation research. At present, three organizations have agreed to administer these annual scholarships. ASIS is one of them, and

they've named their award the ISI Information Science Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship. It is administered by the ASIS Research Committee. Applicants need not be members of ASIS. But they must have completed all course work, and their dissertation proposals must have been approved by the appropriate faculty group.

ASIS awarded this \$1,000 scholarship for the first time last December at its annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio. The recipient was Susan Bonzi, a graduate student at the University of Illinois Graduate School for Library and Information Science at Urbana-Champaign.¹⁵

Another organization that will administer an annual ISI scholarship is the Special Libraries Association (SLA). To be considered for the ISI-SLA \$1,000 award, applicants must be members of SLA who demonstrate high academic achievement and a need for financial support. Only *beginning* doctoral candidates already accepted by an accredited school of library or information science are considered. This stipulation was added to the ISI-SLA Scholarship because there are other SLA awards for *advanced* doctoral students.

The ISI-SLA Scholarship is limited to non-medical library students. Since ISI is also sponsoring a similar award with MLA, persons intending to pursue a doctoral degree in medical librarianship will not be considered for the SLA award.

ACRL is also giving a graduate scholarship sponsored by ISI. Called the ACRL Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship, it provides \$1,000 to a student working on a dissertation in the area of

academic librarianship. The first presentation of the scholarship will be made at the ALA Annual Conference this June in Los Angeles. The recipient will be Stanton F. Biddle, associate director for planning and development at the library of the State University of New York at Buffalo. Biddle is a doctoral candidate at the School of Library and Information Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

ISI is glad to be able to sponsor grants in support of graduate students in library and information science. Information science is still a young field, but the advent of computer science and micro-computer technology has made society more aware of its critical importance in a dramatic way.

In chemistry, the specialty of chemical information science is now firmly established. And I believe we are witnessing the emergence of medical and clinical information science as specialties. While there are already a few awards in chemical information science, I know of few scholarship programs in the clinical information sciences.

We're giving these awards to lend prestige to disciplines that most scientists take for granted. As I pointed out recently in the case of medical libraries, there is a need for greater awareness of their key role in research.¹⁶ More importantly, we hope the awards will act as a positive reinforcement for excellence, and as an incentive to those "gifted" persons who can make significant contributions to library and information science.

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