Awards & Honors
Past Recipients
The Ohio Library Council presents major awards honoring individuals and organizations that make significant contributions to Ohio’s public library community. Award recipients are chosen based on nominations and recommendations received from the Ohio library community. This program has a long tradition of celebrating the innovative and dedicated people who make Ohio’s public libraries successful and vibrant. If you know of a great co-worker or team, please review the evaluation criteria and categories on the OLC website and nominate a deserving colleague.

Awards categories:

- **HALL OF FAME LIBRARIAN**
- **LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR**
- **SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD**
- **OHIO FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY RECOGNITION**
- **TRUSTEE/BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT**
- **JOHN PHILIP OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD**
- **DIANA VESCOELIUS EMERGING LEADER AWARD**
- **LIBRARY INNOVATION AWARD**
- **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

Award descriptions and criteria available at [olc.org/about-us/awards](olc.org/about-us/awards)
Award Recipients

Hall of Fame Librarian

1970 - Carl Vitz
1971 - Harriet Long
1972 - Mildred Sandoe
1973 - Dr. Jesse H. Shera
1974 - Rose L. Vormelker
1975 - Margaret Kaltenbach
1976 - Ruth Hess
1977 - Dorothy I. Strouse
1978 - Walter Brahm, Margaret S. Skiff
1979 - Helen M. Focke
1980 - William Chait
1981 - Paul H. Bixler
1982 - Dr. Lewis C. Branscomb
1983 - Charlotte Leonard
1985 - Erwin J. Gaines
1986 - A. Chapman Parsons
1988 - Robert F. Cayton
1989 - John H. Rebenack
1990 - Frederick G. Kilgour
1991 - Joseph F. Shubert
1992 - Hannah McCauley
1993 - Ardath Danford
1994 - R. Russell Munn
1995 - Rachel Wayne Nelson
1996 - Greg Byerly, Patricia H. Latshaw
1998 - John N. Storck
1999 - Marilyn Gell Mason, Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee
2000 - John S. Wallach
2001 - Jeffrey A. French
2003 - Holly Carroll
2004 - Joseph C. Palmer
2005 - Richard Rubin
2007 - Martha Gardin
2009 - Kathy East
2011 - Meribah Mansfield
2013 - Celia Huffman
2014 - Don W. Barlow
2015 - Deborah F. O’Connor
2016 - Clyde S. Scoles
2017 - Kimber L. Fender
2018 - Missy Lodge
2019 - Alan Hall
2021 - Tim Kambitsch
2022 - George Needham
**Notable Ohio Hall of Fame Librarians**

**Elected in 1975**
William H. Brett, 1846-1918  
Electra C. Doren, 1861-1927  
Linda A. Eastman, 1867-1963  
James C. Foutts, 1907-1964  
Charles B. Galbreath, 1858-1934  
Thirza E. Grant, 1886-1970  
Chalmers Hadley, 1872-1958  
Herbert S. Hirshberg, 1879-1955  
Julia Wright Merrill, 1881-1961  
Paul A. T. Noon, 1905-1971  
Azariah S. Root, 1862-1927  
Burton E. Stevenson, 1872-1962  
Alice S. Tyler, 1859-1944  
Joseph L. Wheeler, 1884-1970

**Elected in 1980**
George J. Blazier, 1886-1970  
Marilla W. Freeman, 1871-1961  
Nathaniel Hodges, 1852-1927  
Olive Branch Jones, 1863-1933  
Effie L. Power, 1873-1969  
Paul North Rice, 1888-1967

**Elected in 1985**
Florence Craig, 1901-1980  
Annie S. Cutter, 1877-1957  
Raymond Embree, 1905-1968  
William J Hamilton, 1884-1974  
Hannah S. Hunt, 1903-1973

**Elected in 1985 (continued)**
Earl N. Manchester, 1881-1954  
Gilbert W. Ward, 1880-1944  
Amy Winslow, 1890-1980

**Elected in 1990**
Hugh C. Atkinson, 1933-1986  
Ernest I. Miller, 1907-1972  
L. Quincy Mumford, 1903-1982  
Elnora M. Portteus, 1920-1983  
A. Robert Rogers, 1927-1985

**Hall of Fame Trustee**
1970 - Elsie Bennett Wilson  
1972 - George W. Coen  
1976 - Jean M. Coleman  
1977 - Arthur W. Marr  
1980 - Brooks W. MacCracken  
1983 - Emelyne Ely Reed  
1992 - Robert Jenkins  
1993 - Dennis G. Fedor  
1994 - Mary Obenour  
1995 - Morton M. Thomas  
1996 - Pauline Bennett  
1997 - H. Baird Tenney  
2001 - Terry L. Casey
Librarian of the Year Award Recipients

1959 - Walter Brahm
1963 - Helen K. Sunnafrank
1964 - Dorothy Strouse
1965 - R. Russell Munn
1967 - Raymond Embree
1968 - Mary Zimmerman
1969 - Dr. Jesse H. Shera
1970 - Clara E. Lucioli, Ernest I. Miller
1972 - Elnora M. Portteus
1973 - Frederick G. Kilgour
1974 - Lewis C. Naylor
1975 - William Chait
1976 - Dr. A. Robert Rogers
1977 - Doris Wood
1978 - H. Paul Schrank
1979 - John H. Rebenack
1980 - Hannah McCauley
1981 - Doris Jyurovat
1982 - Kathy East, Ervin I. Gaines
1983 - Robert H. Donahugh
1984 - Maryann Sadlier
1985 - Ardath Danford
1986 - Jeanne Dykins
1987 - Hwa-Wei Lee
1988 - Nancy Wareham
1989 - Alan Hall
1990 - Floyd C. Dickman, Phyllis Gallo
1991 - Gregory L. Reese
1992 - Philip Koons
1993 - Wallace White
1994 - John J. Philip
1995 - James F. Bouchard, Millie Covey Fry
1996 - John S. Wallach
1997 - Anthony G. Yankus
1998 - Stephen D. Wood
1999 - Judith Ellen Riggle
2000 - John W.P. Storck
2001 - John A. Lonsak, Andrew A. Venable, Jr.
2003 - Meribah Mansfield
2004 - Patricia Hillmer
2005 - Margaret C. Danziger
2007 - Nancy J. Kelley
2009 - Kimber L. Fender
2011 - Donna L. Perdzock
2014 - Mary Jane Santos
2015 - Heidi Daniel
2017 - Debbie L. Saunders
2018 - Andrea C. Legg
2019 - Jeff Winkle
2021 - James Hill
2022 - Kacie Armstrong
Trustee of the Year Recipients

1942 - Elsie Bennett Wilson, James J. Weadock, Jr.
1945 - Mrs. Max Hellman, Mrs. R.P. Parkhurst
1946 - Bertha Trebein Flynn, H.M. Jacobs
1947 - A. E. Gower, J.E. Argetsinger
1948 - E. A. McCuskey, Jessie J. Smith
1950 - Rebecca F. Gayton, Ella G. Lupton, MD
1951 - Arthur W. Fiske, Fred M. Fuller
1952 - Mrs. Agnes Hirsch, J. S. Masson
1953 - Robert J. Brown, Mrs. Karl B. Hoke
1954 - Mrs. Leonard Church
1956 - Clyde C. Henderson, George Wiseman, MD
1957 - H. William Lilley
1958 - Aubrey Billings, Ethel G. Swanbeck, Dr. Walter A. Zaugg
1959 - Ina Warner Broeman, Jacob A. Meckstroth, George W. Murdock
1961 - William F. Maag
1962 - Bernice A. Warner
1963 - George W. Coen
1965 - Mrs. Dorothy Smucker
1966 - Joseph E. Hurst
1967 - Mrs. George Harding III, Clarence D. Steffy
1968 - Mrs. Leland Spore
1969 - Arthur W. Marr
1970 - Charles E. Blakeslee
1971 - Mrs. Jean Coleman
1972 - Thomas H. Anderson
1973 - Raymond R. Brown
1974 - Emelyne Ely Reed
1975 - Brooks W. MacCracken
1977 - Florence Gault
1978 - Guion Osborn
1979 - L. Eugene Byers, DVM
1980 - Raymond Gaier
1982 - Mrs. Avis Cullen
1984 - Dennis G. Fedor
1985 - James B. Stubbins
1986 - Easter Straker
1988 - Alice Wilson
1989 - Bonnie J. Cordell
1990 - Ralph L. Moore
1991 - Richard Danford
1992 - James R. Kimmel
1993 - Dr. William D. Baker
1994 - Robert F. Sullivan
1995 - David C. Miller
1996 - JoAnn Vance
1997 - Amos J. Loveday
1998 - Ian Haberman
1999 - Harold V. Felton
2001 - Harold B. Cooper
**Trustee Award of Achievement Recipients**

1976 - Troy-Miami County Public Library
1977 - Public Library of Columbus and Franklin County
1978 - Summit County Trustee Council
1979 - Minerva Public Library
1980 - Fairfield County District Library
1981 - East Cleveland Public Library
1982 - Loudonville Public Library
1983 - Burton Public Library
1984 - Lorain Public Library
1985 - Community Public Library, St. Marys
1986 - Geauga County Public Library
1987 - Flesh Public Library
1988 - Portage County District Library
1990 - Washington County Public Library
1991 - Pickaway County District Library
1992 - Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County Library
1993 - Clermont County Public Library
1994 - Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library

**Trustee/Board of Trustees Award of Achievement**  
*combined in 2003*

2003 - Queen Lester  
2004 - Charlotte Kessler  
2005 - Doris Lawler  
2007 - Patricia T. Holter  
2009 - Gregory Clifford, Esq. Louis Dudek  
2011 - William J. Moran  
2013 - William Shkurti  
2014 - Bob Plantz  
2015 - Kathleen Hickey Green  
2016 - Benjamin Chinni

2017 - Thomas R. Uhler  
2018 - Michael W. Kilbourne  
2019 - Barbara Denison  
2021 - Dr. Garalynn Tomas  
2022 - Robert Jenkins
John Philip Outreach Award Recipients

1995 - John Philip
1996 - Cheryl Kreiner
1997 - Jean Roberts
1998 - Elizabeth "Betsy" Fried
1999 - June Huss
2000 - Julianne Matasich
2001 - Mercier Robinson
2003 - Abigail Noland
2004 - Deborah Dubois
2005 - Deborah DiGennaro
2007 - Carol Ann Carmack
2009 - Anne Juhasz
2011 - Kris Netzel
2013 - Elizabeth Hatton Zuelke
2014 - Ann Plazek
2015 - Tammy Long
2016 - Delaware County District Library, Community & Family Outreach Services Department
2017 - Cathy E. Hunter
2018 - Linda Toohey
2019 - Stephanie Brown and Brittany Labinger

John Philip Outreach and Community Engagement Award
(name change 2021)

2021 - David Siders
A. Chapman Parsons Award Recipients

1998 - John S. Wallach  
Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library

1999 - Amos Loveday, Former Trustee  
Worthington Public Library

2000 - Larry Black  
Columbus Metropolitan Library

2001 - Frances Black  
Southwest Public Libraries

2002 - George W.S. Hays  
Salem Public Library

2003 - Holly Carroll  
Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library

2017 - Kimber L. Fender  
Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

Citizen of the Year Award Recipients

1993 - Thomas Dennis, Mark Powell


1995 - Maynard Sauder

1996 - Joan Bennett

1998 - Dr. Thomas W. Flechtner

2003 - Marah Walker

2004 - Kathy Catazaro-Perry

2007 - Sibongile (Bongi) Sithe

2009 - Regina Brett

2014 - Bill Morris

2015 - Jonathan D. Iten

2017 - Stephen A. Hedges

2018 - Ryan D. Burgess

2019 - Douglas S. Evans

2021 - Terry Fouts

2022 - Benjamin Anderson, Mark Hamlin
Andrew Carnegie Award Recipients

1995 - Vern Riffe, House Speaker
1995 - Stan Aronoff, Senate President
1996 - Richard Finan, Senator (7)
1997 - George Voinovich, Governor
1998 - Priscilla Mead, Representative (28)
1999 - Roy Ray, Senator (27)
2001 - Randy Gardner, Senator (18)
2002 - Larry Householder, House Speaker
2003 - Mark Mallory, Senator (9)
2005 - John Carey, Senator (17)
2013 - Bill Beagle, Senator (5)
2017 - Ryan Smith, Representative (93)
2020 - Larry Obhof, Senate President
2022 - Jay Hottinger, Senate President

James Cook Book Award: Celebrating Diversity in Teen Literature*

2021 - Aiden Thomas’ Cemetery Boys
2019 - Elizabeth Acevedo’s The Poet X
2017 - Neal Shusterman’s Challenger Deep
2015 - Jandy Nelson’s I’ll Give You the Sun
2013 - A.S. King’s Ask the Passengers
2011 - Francisco X. Stork’s Marcelo in the Real World
2009 - Michael Harmon’s Last Exit to Normal
2007 - Marina Budhos’ Ask Me No Questions

*Winning books selected by the James Cook Book Award Selection Committee
Supportive Staff Member of the Year Recipients

1976 - Jessie Hall
1977 - Elsetta Ervin
1979 - Ward Murray
1980 - Pauline Wrocklage
1981 - Jean Dolan
1982 - John Edward Soult
1984 - Alice Nodes
1985 - Doris Plaine
1986 - Alice Bakies, Jessie Don Butcher
1987 - Joanne Guitteau
1989 - Patricia L. Ray
1990 - Manuel Fonseca
1991 - Gretchen Cunningham
1992 - Marguerite Crist Calvin
1993 - Minnie Waters Mackenzie
1994 - Michael Pope
1995 - Robert L. Simon
1996 - Jeffrey A. Yahraus
1997 - Jennifer Bull
1998 - Betty Spyker
1999 - Lori Schrader
2000 - Eva Greenberg
2001 - Terri Frederick
2003 - Paula Banks
2004 - Judith Scaife
2005 - Helen Wilson
2007 - Martha E. Hamilton
2009 - Steve Prater
2011 - Rebecca J. Carroll
2012-13 - Margaret Clarke Simon
2015 - Mary S. Baker
2016 - Martin J. Flynn

Service Excellence Award Recipients
(name change 2017)

2017 - Michael Christian-Budd
2018 - Lynn Mercer
2019 - Grace Walker
2021 - Doug Stout
2022 - Laura Rosero
Diana Vescelius Memorial Award Recipients

1972 - Jacqueline Johns
1973 - Terry McLaughlin
1974 - Judith K. Mowery
1975 - Daniel S. Suvak
1976 - Elfreda Chatman
1977 - Barbara Newmark
1978 - Carmen Z. Celigoj
1979 - Cheryl Albrecht
1980 - Ellen Bell
1981 - Julie Steinbrenner Brooks
1982 - Walt Lessun
1983 - Louise Hamel
1984 - Susan Barrick
1988 - Sue McCleaf-Nespeca
1989 - Carolyn Morgan Burrier
1990 - Molly Carver
1992 - Beverly Cain
1993 - C. Allen Nichols
1995 - Karen Laird
1998 - Thomas S. Adkins, Tracy S. Ruhaak
1999 - Maureen Lerch
2001 - Ben Rule
2003 - Sandi Thompson
2004 - Jessica Crim-Weithman
2005 - William Kelly
2009 - Sarah (Pillivant) Amazing
2011 - Sam Bloom
2014 - Shayna Muckerheide
2015 - Evan Struble
2016 - Sarah R. Clevidence

Diana Vescelius Emerging Leader Award
(name change 2017)

2018 - Amanda Marquart
2019 - Pamela Brockway
2021 - Sondra Presley
2022 - Taryn Mirabello
Library Innovation Award Recipients

2004 - Cuyahoga County Public Library, Maple Heights Regional Branch
“Homework Yes!” Youth Experiencing Success Program

2007 - Training Team of the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library

2009 - Partnership between Elyria Public Library and Lorain County Community College in the Barbara and Mike Bass Library/Community Resource Center

2011 - Wadsworth Public Library
Lending Laptops for Home Use

2013 - Consortium of Ohio Libraries (COOL)

2014 - Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library
Book Bike Outreach Program

2015 - Sandusky Library
Internet and Roku Lending Programs

2016 - Stark County District Library
BikeSmart Program

2017 - Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County
“We Have the Hots for You” Services

2018 - Medina County District Library
GED Testing Center

2019 - Andrea Francis, Toledo Lucas County Public Library
The Grandparent Project

2021 - All Ohio Public Libraries and Library Staff
For their innovative programs and services, remarkable resiliency and unwavering dedication to serving their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2022 - West End Stories Project Podcast, Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library
Ohio Friends of the Library Recognition Award Recipients

1987 - Friends of the North Canton Public Library,
     Friends of the Sylvania Branch
     (Toledo-Lucas County Public Library)

1988 - Friends of Kirtland Public Library

1989 - Friends of Herrick Memorial Library,
     Friends of Middletown Public Library

1990 - Friends of Beachwood Library, Friends of West Union Branch
     (Ohio Valley District Free Library)

1991 - Friends of Lakewood Public Library,
     Friends of Columbiana Public Library

1992 - Friends of Toledo-Lucas County Public Library,
     Friends of Findlay-Hancock County Public Library,
     Friends of Portage Lakes Branch
     (Akron-Summit County Public Library)

1993 - Friends of Muskingum County Library System,
     Friends of Geauga West Branch
     (Geauga County Public Library), Friends of Chardon Branch
     (Geauga County Public Library),
     Friends of Tipp City Public Library

1994 - Friends of Cleveland Public Library,
     Friends of Stark County Public Library,
     Friends of Worthington Public Library,
     Friends of Pickerington Public Library,
     Friends of Columbia Branch (Lorain Public Library)

1995 - Friends of Columbus Metropolitan Library,
     Friends of Porter Public Library

1996 - Friends of South Branch (Muskingum County Public Library)

1997 - Friends of Avon Branch (Lorain Public Library),
     Friends of Stryker Branch
     (Williams County Public Library)

1998 - Friends of Milton-Union Public Library,
     Friends of Scio Branch (Puskarich Public Library),
     Friends of Lorain Public Library,
     Friends of Avon Lake Public Library
Ohio Friends of the Library Recognition Award
(continued)

1999 - Friends of Elyria Public Library

2000 - Friends of Main Library (Akron-Summit County Public Library)

2001 - Friends of the Avon Library, Friends of the Brecksville Library (Cuyahoga County Public Library), Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Library

2003 - Friends of the Pickerington Public Library

2004 - Friends of the Burton Public Library

2005 - Friends of the Athens Public Library

2007 - Friends of Tuscarawas County Public Library

2009 - Friends of Shaker Library

2011 - Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library, Friends of the Loudonville Public Library

2012-13 - Friends of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

2014 - Lake Community Friends of the Library, Stark County District Library

2015 - Friends of the Cooper Community Library, Paulding County Carnegie Library System

2016 - Friends of Washington-Centerville Public Library

2018 - Friends of the Delaware County District Library

2021 - Friends of Medina County District Library
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