

Annual Report

Division or Committee Name:

Awards & Honors

Submitted by:

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Did you sponsor or present an OLC webinar?

No

Did you sponsor program(s) at OLC events? (Conferences, Convention and Expo, etc.)

Yes

List Professional Development program(s), date(s), and provide brief overview of program(s):

Annual awards luncheon where a year's worth of committee work results in major awards honoring individuals and organizations that make significant contributions to the Ohio public library community.

Did you host an OLC Connects table at the Convention and Expo?

Yes

Did you distribute any print or electronic communications (newsletters, articles, publications)?

Yes

Briefly describe communications:

Awards & Honors committee members are responsible for writing Access articles to promote the awards and their nomination cycle.

Did you utilize the OLC website?

Yes

Did you create any new partnerships or initiatives?

Yes

If yes, please describe partnerships/initiatives:

New initiatives in 2022 for OLC's Awards & Honors committee:

Award name change: Diana Vescelius Emerging Leader Award has been changed to the Emerging Leader Award.

Award criteria update: Service Excellence Award criteria has expanded to include community engagement and/or outreach performed by a library employee.

Created new award in 2023: Library Advocate Award. This award recognizes exceptional service to a library community by a board member, trustee or other unpaid volunteer.

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These initiatives were submitted to the OLC board in September 2022.

In June 2022, the Awards & Honors committee met to discuss OLC's May 2022 request for the committee to examine the James Cook Book Award and share Awards & Honors' thoughts on named book awards in general. The committee response was submitted to the OLC board in July 2022 and is pasted below:

The direction that the Awards & Honors committee would like to go in, and the principles that will guide the committee's future discussions and decisions, are:

- The committee agrees that OLC awards should go to people, not books, and that the recipients of Ohio Library Council awards should be those who are working, or have worked in, Ohio libraries.
- Named awards lose meaning over time (the committee struggled to recall any details about the individuals currently memorialized by OLC awards – Diana Vescelius and John Phillip.)
- The OLC board should find and recommend alternatives to current named award categories (particularly where there might be overlap with a similar award from another organization) and / or for future named award requests. Examples include:
 - o John Phillip Outreach / Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services
 - o James Cook Book Award / Ohioana Book Awards
 - o Library board resolutions
 - o Acknowledgement on individual library websites
 - o Local memorials

Furthermore, nominations for OLC awards have declined over the past few years. There are a number of ideas about rethinking and / or merging a few categories to reduce the overall number of OLC awards. The committee plans to have another meeting to discuss current principles and guidelines for awards categories and process and create policies / procedures for the committee to follow going forward. A date was set in September for the committee to meet and have that discussion and make a formal proposal to the OLC board in September 2022.