

CCA Library Research Awards

An annual competition for undergraduates consisting of two \$200 prizes awarded by the library: a) one for research conducted for a paper assignment, and b) one for research activities in the production of an original artwork or design project.

Purpose

To encourage and recognize skill and creativity in use of library and information resources in the undergraduate curriculum.

Entry and application

1. Open to currently enrolled CCA undergraduates. Students from all levels and disciplines are encouraged to apply. For group projects, each student may apply separately. Only one application per student per year will be considered.
2. Work on the project submitted must have been done in conjunction with a CCA course from the current academic year, except for research conducted for the senior thesis, which are not eligible for this award.
3. All submissions must include one print copy of each of the following:
 - a. A 500-750 word research essay describing the research strategies, process, and use of library resources, tools, and services. (see essay tips below...)
 - b. A properly formatted bibliography (in APA, Chicago, or MLA style).
 - c. An application form that includes a signature from the faculty member responsible for the course.
 - d. The paper or photo documentation of the artwork or design; either may be in completed or draft/in-process form.
4. There will be a submission period for projects at the end of the Summer, Fall, and Spring semesters, *though all entries for the academic year will be judged at the end of the Spring semester.*

Evaluation

Two CCA librarians will assess all submitted projects along with one faculty member for studio-based projects and one faculty member for the research paper projects. Judging will be based on the following criteria.

1. The research essay and bibliography demonstrate:
 - a. Extensive and creative use of library collections, and of materials in a variety of formats
 - b. Successful utilization of search tools (such as library catalogs, electronic databases, online search engines, and archival collections) and search strategies appropriate for your information needs
 - c. Critical evaluation of information sources
 - d. Management, organization, and synthesis of information as evidence of personal learning and mastery of content
 - e. Responsible use of information by providing accurate citations and credits
2. Scholarly projects should demonstrate clarity of thought, substantiated arguments, coherent organization, and exceptional stylistic quality. Studio projects should be thought-provoking and original, with an overall high quality of presentation. All projects should reflect the scope of research and demonstrate engagement with the resources consulted.

CCA credits the following institutions whose library research award were used as models for our own: University of California Berkeley Library, University of Oregon Libraries, University of Washington Libraries, Wellesley College Library.

Essay Tips for Students

The following questions may help illustrate the kinds of subjects that we hope you will address in your research essay. Please note that your essay will be evaluated according to the criteria above, and you do NOT have to answer any of the questions below.

- What library collections and specific search tools did you use?
- What difficulties did you confront in the research process?
- What role did your research play in your creative and/or learning process?
- What kinds of questions were you trying to answer early in your research? Did those questions change as your research progressed? How?
- What were the most useful sources you found for your project?
- What sources did you find that you did NOT use? Why didn't you use them?

Application Form/Faculty Statement of Support

Student name:

Email:

Phone:

Category (check one): Research paper ____ Artwork ____

Department/course project was made for:

Semester/year of the assignment:

Instructor's name:

Instructor's signature:

Title or description of the project: