Purpose

The Library Research Awards program recognizes Monmouth University undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate extraordinary skill and creativity in the application of library and information resources to research papers completed in fulfillment of a course requirement. In addition to rewarding successful information literacy achievements by students, these awards will also highlight and promote the Library’s resources and services to the Monmouth community.

The awards, sponsored by the Monmouth University Library Association, will be presented as one winning award for each category – undergraduate, and graduate.

Eligibility

- Individuals currently enrolled as undergraduate and graduate students at Monmouth University. All class levels and disciplines are eligible.
- Projects must be nominated by a faculty member and fulfill the requirements of a Monmouth course.
- Projects must be written in spring, summer or fall of 2010.
- Projects must contain an element of library research. The use of primary and/or secondary literature to support a thesis must be present.

Application Procedure & Deadline

When preparing the application package, please include:

- Application cover sheet.
- Nomination form from the faculty member teaching the course for which the research was conducted.
- A 100 word abstract/summary of the research project.
- A 500-750 word essay describing research strategies and application of library tools and resources in completion of the project (see evaluation criteria chart).
- A final version of the research project, including works cited; papers should be approximately 8-20 pages long.

Application Period: May 1, 2010 – Tuesday, March 1, 2011 5:00PM
Winner notification: April 1, 2011
Student Awards Reception: April 2011

Faculty nomination and application cover sheet forms should be sent to:
Lisa Coats
Monmouth University Library
400 Cedar Avenue
West Long Branch, New Jersey 07764

A hard copy of the submission can be sent to the address above, or e-mail an electronic copy of the essay, and research paper to Lisa Coats: lcoats@monmouth.edu. Applications must be complete; incomplete applications or late applications will not be considered.
Evaluation Criteria

Successful projects will:

- Make extensive, creative use of library services, resources, and collections in any format.
- Exhibit the ability to select, evaluate, and synthesize library resources and to successfully use them in the creation of the research paper.
- Show evidence of significant personal learning and development of research skills.
- The essay describing research techniques used will be given the most weight in the judging process. The essay should demonstrate the applicant’s: identification of sources consulted, description of searching process, and evidence of learning.

Submissions will be judged on a 15-point scale. Up to five points will be awarded for each of three categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources Consulted (0-5 points)</th>
<th>Description of Searching Process (0-5 points)</th>
<th>Evidence of Learning (0-5 points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What library services or tools were used—reference assistance, ILL, library workshops, research guides?</td>
<td>Was a thesis statement clearly articulated for the assignment?</td>
<td>Did the student articulate what was learned during the process?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were a variety of sources used? (print, electronic, primary, secondary, books, articles, scholarly, popular)</td>
<td>Were keywords identified to find materials?</td>
<td>Did the student describe changes in searching behavior when confronted with inadequate results?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were sources appropriate/sufficient for the assignment?</td>
<td>Were search strategies modified to narrow down or broaden search results?</td>
<td>Did the student learn anything new about the library that was not known before?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were sources credible and authoritative?</td>
<td>Did the student modify the search statement along the way, based on search results?</td>
<td>Did the student express increasing confidence in the research abilities during the course of this process?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were sources cited appropriately and consistently within a specific style?</td>
<td>How did the student determine which were the best resources?</td>
<td>Did the student express how describing this process might help them in future coursework?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from criteria developed by Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
Evaluation Committee

A three-person panel composed of 2 Monmouth University librarians and a member of the sponsoring Library Association will judge entries on the evidence of the applicant's research strategy, process, and personal learning, as shown in the paper and summarized in the research essay. Expectations for achievement will be commensurate with the applicant's class year and the requirements of the discipline.

Award Notification

Winners will be notified no later than April 1, 2011. The Award recipient will receive a $250 check and a certificate presented at the Student Awards Reception, and will be publicized in the Library Newsletter.

Acknowledgements

The 2011 Monmouth University Library Research Awards are made possible by the Monmouth University Library Association. We gratefully acknowledge this generous support. We also extend our thanks to the libraries at Brock University, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Washington, and the University of Oregon for guidance in the development of the Library Research Award program.
Monmouth University Library Research Award 2011

Application Checklist

☐ Application Cover Sheet with student signature
☐ Faculty Nomination form (faculty member completes)
☐ 100 word abstract/summary of the research project
☐ 500 – 750 word essay describing research strategies and application of library tools and resources in completion of the project
☐ Final version of the research project, including bibliography/works cited, approximately 8 – 20 pages long

Submissions will be accepted May 1, 2010 – Tuesday, March 1, 2011 5PM. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Applications will not be returned; please submit copies.

Deliver the complete application package to:

   Library Research Award Committee
   Lisa Coats
   Monmouth University Library
   400 Cedar Avenue
   West Long Branch, New Jersey 07764

Or send electronically to:

Lisa Coats: lcoats@monmouth.edu
Application Cover Sheet (to be completed by student applicant)

Student Name: ____________________________________________

Student ID#:___________

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________

E-Mail: ___________________ Phone: ____________________

Major Field (if declared): ______________________________________

Award Category: Undergraduate _____ Graduate _____

Expected date of graduation: ____________________________________

Course number and Title of course for which project was completed:

_________________________________________________________

Professor’s Name: ___________________ Department: ________________

E-Mail: ___________________ Phone: ____________________

Title of Project: ____________________________________________

By signing below, I represent that I am the author of the herewith submitted article, research report or other writing (aka, “the work”) and that the work in no way infringes upon any copyright or proprietary rights. As author, I retain all copyrights in the work, except that I hereby grant Monmouth University a non-exclusive, perpetual, royalty-free license to publish the work on the University’s website, in public relations/promotional materials, and in other publications of the University.

Signature: ____________________________________________

Date: ____________________________________________
Monmouth University Library Research Award 2011

Faculty Nomination Form (to be completed by faculty member)

Faculty/Instructor Name: ____________________________________________

Department: ________________

E-Mail: _____________________  Phone: ____________________________

Title of Project: __________________________________________________

Student Name: __________________________________________________

Course Title: _______________

Course Code: _____________________________________________________

Award category: Undergraduate _____  Graduate _____

Term course was taught:       Spring 2010_____  Summer 2010_____
                               Fall 2010_____

Send this nomination letter directly to:

Library Research Award Committee
Lisa Coats
Monmouth University Library
400 Cedar Avenue
West Long Branch, New Jersey 07764

Signature: _________________________________

Date: _________________________________