



## 2009 SLA Europe Early Career Conference Awards

### APPLICATION DETAILS

There are four Early Career Conference Awards (ECCA) available in 2009. If you would like to apply for the 2009 ECCA Award, please find eligibility and application requirements below along with a description of the Award, and ways in which Award winners benefit from receiving the Award, before and after via the post-Award obligations.

Past Award winners have found the experience invaluable. The 2009 Conference is in SLA's Centennial year and will be particularly exciting. We encourage you to apply.

#### The Awards

SLA Europe is offering four 2009 ECCA Awards jointly with the Business & Finance (B&F), Insurance & Employee Benefits (IEB), and the Leadership & Management (LMD) Divisions of SLA. The Award is to attend the 2009 SLA Centennial Conference in Washington, DC 14-17 June 2009.

Each Award is worth about \$2,000. It covers the full cost of Conference registration, hotel lodging, economy return airfare to Washington, DC, and meals and appropriate incidental expenses. A member of the SLA Europe Board will make all booking arrangements for each Award winner and arrange for the Award winners to travel together, if possible.

Award winners will be assigned to one of the three SLA Divisions co-sponsoring the Award and will be paired with a mentor from that SLA Division. Their mentor will brief them before the Conference, give guidance during the Conference, and maintain a link to the Division following the Conference.

#### When to Apply:

All applications must be received no later than 31 January 2009. Award winners will be notified in February 2009.

#### Background of the Award:

This is the third year of the Award programme, which was originally called the SLA Europe Student Conference Award. To learn more about the background of the Award, see *SLA Europe News*, 2008, Issue 2, pp. 8-12. Articles by past Award winners appear on our website on the "Early Career" page and in *SLA Europe News*.

#### The Three Co-Sponsoring SLA Divisions:

To obtain further information about the Divisions co-sponsoring the Award, please visit their websites:

- **Business & Finance:** <http://www.slabf.org>. This is the third year that B&F have co-sponsored this Award. In 2007, they joined SLA Europe in supporting one Award winner, who

travelled from Germany. In 2008, B&F increased its support from one to two Award winners. In 2009, B&F will again support two Award winners.

- **Insurance & Employee Benefits:** <http://units.sla.org/division/dieb/index.htm>. This is the second year that IEB has joined with SLA Europe to support one Award winner.
- **Leadership & Management:** <http://units.sla.org/division/dlmd>. LMD is joining the list of co-sponsors for the first time this year.

#### **Benefits of Receiving the Award:**

Our Award winners list many benefits in the articles they have written in *SLA Europe News*. Some of the key points they have highlighted are:

- Gain a broadened perspective on the many careers a Library and Information Science (LIS) degree offers by attending Conference programme events and meeting seasoned information professionals at the Conference – see [http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla\\_blog/2008/11/top-10-reasons.html](http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla_blog/2008/11/top-10-reasons.html) and <http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2009/index.cfm>.
- Learn about many products and services for the LIS market by visiting the stands of exhibitors at the Conference's accompanying INFO-EXPO.
- Receive professional recognition from SLA Europe members and the co-sponsoring SLA Divisions. Award winners will be formally acknowledged in Washington, DC, at an Award ceremony hosted by the Division co-sponsoring them. They will also be introduced at the International Reception and the First Timers Reception.
- Gain widespread visibility through international publicity disseminated by SLA, SLA Europe, the co-sponsoring SLA Divisions and industry sponsors, introducing the ECCA winners to the information community.
- Be able to travel to the United States and meet information professionals from all parts of the globe.
- Develop their professional profile and publicity-seeking skills by writing articles for the divisional and Chapter newsletters.

#### **Eligibility requirements:**

Applicants must be:

- Information professionals working in the field in Europe for less than five years, **OR**  
Students enrolled in a European Library and Information Science (LIS) programme during the 2008-9 academic year.
- Be first-time attendees at an SLA annual Conference.
- Be able to communicate in written and spoken English
- Have up-to-date travel documents required for entry into the United States (e.g. current passport, visa waiver, etc)
- Be interested in a career in special librarianship, preferably in the areas of one or more of the three Divisions co-sponsoring the Awards with SLA Europe.

#### **How to Apply for the 2009 ECCA Award:**

I. Write a two-part statement in English of approximately 500 words. All documents must be prepared in Microsoft Word.

Part one: Tell us why you chose to pursue a career in LIS and why you might wish to work in one or more of the three subject areas, which are the focus of the three co-sponsoring SLA Divisions; and

Part two: Address **one** of the three following questions:

- What specific benefits/knowledge do you hope to gain from attending the 2009 SLA Centennial Conference? (Do not describe what you will do during the Conference).
- What skills must the new breed of information professionals possess and why?
- What is the biggest challenge facing the LIS profession in general, and information professionals in your country in particular?

II. Provide the following documents:

- A letter of recommendation, which explains why you would be a good candidate for this Award. The recommendation may come from your supervisor at work, or a professional colleague not at your own workplace, or if you are a student, from a faculty advisor in your programme.
- Include a copy of your most current resume with your current postal and email addresses as well as a current telephone number.

III. Email your statement and documents, along with a cover letter, to the current President of SLA Europe at [president@sla-europe.org](mailto:president@sla-europe.org) and to the Chair of the Early Career Committee at [earlycareer@sla-europe.org](mailto:earlycareer@sla-europe.org).

#### **Post Award Obligations:**

Each recipient of the 2009 ECCA is expected to write two short articles in English on what they learned at the Conference. One article, geared towards SLA Europe membership, will be published in *SLA Europe News*. The second article will be published in the newsletter of the SLA Division co-sponsoring them and geared to that readership.

The 2009 Award Winners may be required to serve on the Judging Panel for the 2010 Awards (no travel necessary) and will be asked to maintain contact with and assist the SLA Europe Board during the year of their Award.

#### **Enquiries:**

If you have any questions, please contact the Chair of the Early Career Committee at [earlycareer@sla-europe.org](mailto:earlycareer@sla-europe.org) or the President of SLA Europe at [president@sla-europe.org](mailto:president@sla-europe.org).

#### **About SLA**

*The Special Libraries Association is a non-profit global organisation for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, USA, the SLA represents over 12000 information professionals in 83 countries, including corporate, academic and government information specialists. <http://www.sla.org>*

#### **About SLA Europe**

*SLA Europe provides information professionals in Europe with unique networking and learning opportunities through its newsletter, and regular seminars and social events. The group recognises outstanding achievement in the information profession with its annual SLA Europe Information Professional Award (SLA Europe IP). SLA Europe also engages with young information professionals through its Early Career Conference Awards (ECCA) and the SLA Europe Dissertation Prize programme. <http://www.sla-europe.org>*