



## **GUIDANCE STATEMENT 2016-2: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR LIBRARY SCIENCE EDUCATION**

*Revised November 3, 2016*

*Replaces 2012-2*

One of the most pressing issues which impacts all libraries in West Virginia is the lack of professionally trained librarians available for our workforce. It is the policy of the Library Commission to promote the training of librarians whenever/however possible. We hope that local library administrators and Boards of Trustees will assist and encourage their employees to pursue higher education in library science to the fullest extent possible. To that end, this document will advise potential professional librarians, library administrators, Boards and other sources of funding to support higher education in Library and Information Science.

The [American Library Association](#) has a printed its directory of [Financial Assistance for Library and Information Studies](#) to help those attempting to obtain a higher education in Library and Information Science find financial resources to support their education. This directory includes programs that are applicable only to specific schools/states as well as programs that are available (from ALA and other resources) on the national level.

ALA also has a number of [scholarship opportunities](#) for graduate study in Library and Information Science. The [West Virginia Library Association](#) also offers financial assistance to those pursuing a higher education in Library Science. For more information on financial assistance from the West Virginia Library Association, please [contact the Association](#).

Keep in mind that, as West Virginia does not have an accredited program in Library and Information Science, West Virginians who undertake such programs in other Southeastern states (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia) have access to in-state tuition through the [Southern Regional Education Board's Academic Common Market](#). The admissions/recruiting officer in one's chosen school should have additional information as does the [West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission](#). These in-state tuition breaks can mean substantial savings in the cost of graduate education. Many of the programs in these states are offered partially or totally online, meaning that one does not have to leave West Virginia or their current job to obtain Library Science education.

If you have additional questions about [schools and their offerings](#), please see the school's website or contact [WVLC'S Library Development Division](#) for additional information.