

# Undergraduate Library Research Award

## Tips and Tricks for Applicants

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### Faculty Involvement

Give your completed application and library essay to your nominating faculty member for review. To write an effective nominating letter, the faculty member needs to understand your project, and the research that went into your work.

### Library Essay

The required supplemental essay should provide the awards committee with insight into how the library and its resources enriched and enhanced your work. Consider the following questions as you reflect upon and write about your library research experience.

- How did the library serve to incubate your ideas for this project?
- What did you discover about the tools and techniques for research in the library?
- What search strategies brought successful information? What gave dead ends?
- What did you learn about finding and evaluating information on your topic -- or in your discipline?
- What criteria did you use to evaluate the information you found?
- How did you recognize bias and contradictions in information sources?
- What discoveries did you make in the library by serendipity? And which through carefully planned search strategies?
- What lessons about the research process did you take away from the experience?
- Has this library research contributed to your mastery of strategies for lifelong learning?