The Ames Library Scholarly & Artistic Research Proposal Award

The Ames Library Artistic and Scholarly Research Award program provides a funding opportunity for an IWU student under the supervision of a faculty sponsor to propose a significant research or creative project in their specific fields of study. The goal of the award is two-fold:

- to increase opportunities for student learning, information literacy, and critical thinking skills through the creation of knowledge;
- to foster outstanding information literacy skills through the extensive and sophisticated use of the library services, resources and collections (done in collaboration with the liaison librarian.)

One $500 award per academic year is available.

This award program is open to students in all academic disciplines; all forms of undergraduate research and artistic activities are eligible for support, including those that receive academic credit. Students must have achieved sophomore or junior standing at the time they apply for the award; senior students graduating in May of the application year are not eligible to apply.

The student who is selected to receive this award must complete their proposed project before the end of the following academic year in which the award is presented. Students must identify a faculty sponsor who will supervise the project, and work with the library faculty liaison to the project’s discipline. The faculty sponsor can help the student assess and refine the proposal; the library liaison will assist the student in identifying and acquiring additional scholarly resources relevant to the project. The submitted application is expected to be the work of the student. This cash award is unrestricted. Recipients may use this as a stipend or for travel or project materials as needed.

Selection of this annual award is determined by members of the Library Advisory Committee. Criteria used to assess the project descriptions include the following:

- A well-defined and clearly described research or creative idea;
- A clear statement that speaks directly to the goals of this award and demonstrates how the applicant will use and integrate scholarly or artistic resources during the development of the project proposal;
- A well-developed, feasible timeline that indicates the project will be completed by the end of the following academic year;
- A description of the significance of the project to the student’s development as a researcher or creator; and,
- A description of the relationship of the work to the student’s field of study.

To apply:

The deadline for the student application is March 1; faculty letters are due March 10. A completed application packet will provide the following documentation:

1. Cover page
2. Statement of research or creative project description (3-5 pages)
3. Letter from supervising faculty member, which may be sent independently of the student application, addressing the impact of the research or creative endeavor on the student’s educational experience and the discipline
4. Letter from the library liaison, which may be sent independently of the student application, describing how the student engaged with library resources during the development of the application; and,
5. A signed agreement to deposit final product in the IWU Digital Commons.

Student applications and faculty letters should be sent as “.pdf” files to Dr. Karen Schmidt, University Librarian, kschmidt@iwu.edu using “Ames Library Scholarly & Artistic Research Award” in the subject line of the email.

Incomplete applications will not be evaluated. The winning project will be announced at the Honors Convocation, spring semester.

Questions may be directed to Karen Schmidt: 309-556-3834, kschmidt@iwu.edu
The Ames Library Scholarly & Artistic Research Proposal Award
Application Cover Sheet

Student Name: _________________________________________________________

Campus Mailing Address: ________________________________________________

E-mail: ___________________________ Phone: _________________________

Major Field (if declared): ______________________ Expected date of graduation: _____

Name of faculty member sponsoring this project: _____________________________

Department: __________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________ E-mail: ______________________________

Name of library liaison faculty member assisting with this project:
____________________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________ E-mail: ______________________________

Title of Paper/Project: __________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Signature ______________________________________________________________

Date ________________________________