

Knowledge Organization Travel Award

Last Updated December 2019

Award Name	Knowledge Organization Travel Award
Deadline	January 31
Value	400 CAD
Number	One
Donor	Funded by OCLC on behalf of Dr. Hope Olson, SLIS Professor from 1990 to 2003, by virtue of her recognition with the 2017 Margaret Mann Citation; and by generous alumni, faculty, and friends of the School.

Eligibility

Awarded annually (assuming availability of funds and eligible applications) to one student registered in a graduate degree program at SLIS, in either an on-campus or online offering, in support of approved travel expenses associated with a conference, workshop, symposium, etc. in the area of knowledge organization. Support is available for travel, registration, or related expenses to attend such an event where students will interact with other researchers and practitioners in this area. Students who plan to present research or practice-based work in knowledge organization at such an event are preferred, but those attending such events for educational and networking purposes may be considered. A student may receive this award only once during their time at SLIS. Selection is based on academic achievement and the merit and relevance of students' travel proposals.

Application

Students are to submit to SLIS a letter of application describing their relevant research and practice work and the purpose of their travel. Letters should include the name and location of the event students plan to attend and a description of the activities they would complete and the benefits they would receive by attending. Selection is based on academic achievement (as assessed from internal transcripts and GPAs) and the merit of students' travel proposals.

More Information

Dr. Hope Olson was a professor at SLIS from 1990 to 2003, receiving promotion to Professor in 2002. During her time at SLIS, Dr. Olson established herself as an outstanding scholar in the ethics of knowledge organization. In addition to her extensive research and publishing on knowledge organization, Dr. Olson was an influential and beloved teacher of cataloguing, classification, indexing, and abstracting who mentored numerous master's and doctoral students in library and information studies. Known for pioneering the application of feminist, poststructural, and postcolonial theory to critical analysis of knowledge organization practices and tools, Dr. Olson's formative book in this area, written during her time at SLIS, is *The Power to Name: Locating the Limits of Subject Representation in Libraries*. It argues that an insistence on universal classification, such as practiced by Dewey and Cutter, is "harmful ... in the sense that it marginalizes and excludes Others" and ideas that fall outside the "mainstream" (p. 142). The impact of *The Power to Name* has only grown since its publication in 2002. While at the University of Alberta Dr. Olson successfully completed two SSHRC-funded research projects: "The Cultural Construction of Classification" and "Mapping and Expanding Library Classification for Marginalized Domains: Feminism as a Prototype." She also served as editor of the *Knowledge Organization* journal from 2000 to 2004.

After leaving SLIS, Dr. Olson concluded her career at the School of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, also serving as Associate Dean and Interim Dean, before retiring in 2013. She continues to publish and present regionally and internationally on cataloguing, classification, and knowledge organization issues. In 2017, Dr. Olson and her work were recognized with the Margaret Mann Citation, presented by the Cataloging and Metadata Management Section (CaMMS) of the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), a division of the American Library Association.