

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship Application

\$1,000 Scholarship Award

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The **Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship** is presented by the Mississippi Library Association (MLA) and supported by the **Black Caucus Roundtable (BCRT)** in honor of the late **Virgia Brocks-Shedd**, who devoted twenty-six years of outstanding service to the Humanities.

The scholarship provides financial assistance to an **African American graduate student who is a current resident of Mississippi and enrolled in an ALA-accredited library science program**. Applicants may be enrolled either full-time or part-time and must be pursuing a career within the library profession, including librarianship, archives, media specialization, curation, conservation, digital preservation, or related areas of library and information science.

The scholarship seeks to increase the presence and leadership of African Americans within library and information science, archives, digital preservation, and related professions.

One **\$1,000 non-renewable scholarship** is awarded annually.

The scholarship recipient will be recognized during the Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference and is expected to attend the conference when possible.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

ELIGIBILITY

Please check each statement confirming your eligibility.

☐ I am a current resident of Mississippi.

☐ I identify as African American.

☐ I am currently enrolled as a graduate student in an **ALA-accredited library science program**.

☐ I am enrolled either full-time or part-time.

☐ I am pursuing a career in librarianship, archives, media specialization, curation, conservation, digital preservation, library leadership, or another area of library and information science.

Mississippi Driver's License or State ID Number (optional; copy of ID required):

GRADUATE EDUCATION

College/University: _____

Graduate Program: _____

Degree Sought: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

Enrollment Status:

☐ Full-Time ☐ Part-Time

Current GPA: _____

ALA-Accredited Program:

☐ Yes

Please include either a **copy of your acceptance letter to an ALA-accredited library science program** or a **current official or unofficial graduate transcript** with your application.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Please briefly describe your academic accomplishments, honors, awards, significant coursework, research interests, or other achievements that demonstrate your commitment to education.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Please describe your leadership experience. You may include leadership demonstrated through employment, professional organizations, student organizations, libraries, community service, volunteer work, civic organizations, or other activities.

COMMITMENT TO THE LIBRARY PROFESSION

Please describe your professional goals and your commitment to the field of library and information science. Include how you hope to contribute to libraries, archives, information services, digital preservation, or related professional areas within the state of Mississippi.

FINANCIAL NEED STATEMENT

In **at least one complete paragraph**, describe your financial need and explain how receiving the \$1,000 Virginia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship would assist you in completing your graduate education and/or preparing for your career in the library and information science profession.

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Please list professional organizations, community organizations, volunteer activities, library-related activities, or other service in which you currently participate or have participated.

Organization/Activity: _____

Role/Position: _____

Dates of Involvement: _____

Brief Description: _____

Organization/Activity: _____

Role/Position: _____

Dates of Involvement: _____

Brief Description: _____

Additional activities may be included on a separate page or listed on your résumé/CV.

ONE-PAGE ESSAY

Please submit a **one-page essay** responding to **ONE** of the following topics:

Option 1 — Representation and the Library Profession

Why is African American representation important within libraries, archives, information science, digital preservation, and leadership? How do you hope to contribute to the profession?

Option 2 — Libraries and Mississippi Communities

Discuss an issue currently affecting libraries or the communities they serve in Mississippi. As a future library and information science professional, how would you like to help address this issue?

Option 3 — Your Professional Journey

Describe what inspired you to pursue a career in library and information science and explain how your education, experiences, and professional goals will allow you to make a positive contribution to the profession.

The essay should be typed, clearly identify the selected topic, and be included with the completed application materials.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Two letters of recommendation are required.

Letters should address the applicant's **academic and personal abilities, leadership potential, professional commitment, and potential to make positive contributions to the library profession.**

Reference #1

Name: _____

Title/Organization: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Reference #2

Name: _____

Title/Organization: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

A complete application must include:

☐ Completed **Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship Application**

- ☐ Current **Résumé or Curriculum Vitae (CV)**
- ☐ Copy of current **Mississippi Driver's License or State-issued ID**
- ☐ Copy of **acceptance letter to an ALA-accredited library science program OR an official/unofficial graduate transcript**
- ☐ **Two letters of recommendation**
- ☐ **Financial Need Statement** of at least one paragraph
- ☐ **One-page essay** responding to one of the listed essay topics

Applicants are encouraged to combine all application materials into **one PDF document**, when possible.

Incomplete applications may not be considered.

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION

Eligible applications will be reviewed by the Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship Committee. Applications will be evaluated based upon the following criteria:

Application Presentation – Application is carefully completed, well presented, and follows all instructions.

Academic Excellence – Applicant demonstrates a commitment to education and academic achievement.

Leadership Capabilities – Applicant demonstrates leadership ability and potential.

Commitment to the Profession – Applicant demonstrates a commitment to library and information science and to serving communities within the state of Mississippi.

Financial Need – Applicant demonstrates financial need and explains how scholarship assistance would support their educational and professional goals.

Each category will be evaluated using a **1-5 rating scale**.

RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The selected recipient will be asked to:

- Complete and submit a **W-9 Tax Form** before scholarship funds are processed.

- Provide a brief **4–6 sentence professional biography** for publication on the Mississippi Library Association website.
- Attend the **Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference**, when possible, where the recipient will be recognized during the MLA awards ceremony.

Additional information regarding conference recognition will be provided to the scholarship recipient.

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

By signing below, I certify that the information contained in this application and the accompanying materials is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that submission of an application does not guarantee receipt of the Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship.

I understand that, if selected, I may be asked to provide additional information necessary for the Mississippi Library Association to process the scholarship award and recognize me as the scholarship recipient.

I authorize the Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship Committee to review the materials submitted as part of my application for the purpose of determining scholarship eligibility and selection.

Applicant Name (Printed): _____

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Submit the completed application and all required supporting materials to the **Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship Committee Chair/Co-Chair**.

Application Deadline: September 30, 2026

Submit Application To:

Email:

Email Subject Line:

2026 Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship Application – [Applicant Name]

Applicants should retain a copy of all submitted materials for their records.

Questions regarding the scholarship or application process may be directed to the Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship Committee Chair/Co-Chair.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Before submitting your application, please confirm:

- ☐ I meet all eligibility requirements.
- ☐ I completed and signed the application.
- ☐ I included my résumé or CV.
- ☐ I included a copy of my current Mississippi driver's license or state ID.
- ☐ I included documentation verifying my enrollment or acceptance into an ALA-accredited graduate library science program.
- ☐ I included two letters of recommendation.
- ☐ I completed the required financial need statement.
- ☐ I included my one-page essay.
- ☐ I reviewed my application for completeness.
- ☐ I combined my application materials into one PDF, when possible.

Thank you for applying for the Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship and for your commitment to the future of library and information science in Mississippi.