2021 VRA Travel Award Rules & Guidelines

Eligibility

● Due to the unusual nature of this year, everyone is eligible to apply for a Travel Award for 2021, regardless of whether or not you were an awardee in the previous three years. However, we may give preference to applicants who have never received a Travel Award.
● Travel Awards are available to non-members (including international applicants), with the stipulation that awardees must become members of VRA prior to their Conference registration. Here’s a link to the VRA membership page: http://www.vraweb.org/membership/
Please note this year we have made an exception: Travel Awards may be used to cover VRA membership fees.

Conditions Upon Receipt of a VRA Travel Award

● Awards will be presented at a designated event during the conference; you must attend this event.
● The full amount of the award must be used towards your attendance at the 2021 conference and, if applicable, membership. No checks will be distributed this year. All awards will be applied to your registration. Award funds cannot be carried over to next year.
● Award recipients will be encouraged to give back to the VRA either during or after the conference by completing one of the following activities:
  • Participate in a Conference session as a listed speaker or moderator.
  • Write an article for inclusion on the VRA website or in the VRA Bulletin.
  • Facilitate a meeting or other conference event.
  • Participate in a committee or chapter.

● Award monies may be used for:
  • Conference registration (not including workshop fees)
  • VRA membership (new members and members who will not have an active membership at the time of the conference in March)

Tips for Completing Your Application

We can’t wait to read your application! We find that successful applications have a few specific qualities, and here are some of the most important things to keep in mind:
● Please be as precise as you can with your answers.
● Be as specific and thorough as possible in your Conference Goals Statement.
  • Aim for between 250 and 500 words.
  • Tell the Committee how certain workshops, sessions, and roundtables will directly benefit the work that you do in your collection or academic program.
• Avoid generalizations such as “I will get to talk with colleagues about their digitization projects” or “I hope to learn about copyright law.” We want to know the specifics of why and how these conference opportunities will benefit your career.

• Be brave! Participate in the Conference as a presenter, moderator or volunteer. Connect with your VRA colleagues. Attend and participate in regional chapter meetings, or consider joining a committee and attending its meeting. And be sure to note your intended participation in your Conference Goals Statement.

• Think about how you will give back to VRA in advance, and mention this in your Conference Goals Statement. Some ways to give back include:
  o Writing an article for inclusion on the VRA website or in the VRA Bulletin.
  o Facilitating a meeting or other conference event.

• If you haven’t already done so, join the VRA listserv! (http://vraweb.org/membership/vra-l-guidelines/)
  o It’s a great place to learn more about VRA, the annual conference, and your colleagues. We look forward to hearing from you!

Updated October 2020.