Creating a Library Research Prize to Reward and Encourage Information Literacy

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Creating a Library Research Prize

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What and why?

• $500 annual prize awarded to an undergraduate student

• Underscores importance of the library and promotes information literacy

Kristin Haustein, junior, displays her 2009 winning paper on Propaganda in East Germany
Criteria

• Depth and breadth of library resources used.

• Evidence of learning and an understanding of the research process.

• Demonstration of information literacy skills:

http://boe.ming.k12.wv.us/teachers/di/di_rubrics/rubric.gif
Information Literacy

• Not just the best writing
• Research Process Essay
• Types of resources
• Rubric encompasses all aspects
  - Determining information needed
  - Accessing information
  - Evaluating information critically
  - Organizing and synthesizing information
  - Using information ethically, legally, and effectively *

Step 1
Get the Dean/Director’s buy-in
(whoever has the money)
Step 2
Create a committee
• Dean is useful
• Website creator
• Include a student?
Step 3

“Steal” ideas from others (with permission)

Library Prize for Undergraduate Research

2009 Winners

2009 Honorable Mentions

The Library Prize attracts the very best undergraduate papers from courses taught in departments across the campus.

It recognizes excellence in undergraduate research projects that show evidence of:

- significant inquiry using the library, its resources, and collections
- learning about the research and information-gathering process itself.

Prize Amount:
$750: lower-division
$1,000: upper-division

Number of Prizes:
Up to six annually

Application Deadline:
To Be Announced

UC-Berkeley
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/researchprize/
Tailor your prize to your environment.

- Develop unique, comprehensive policies and procedures (make everything as clear and airtight as possible).
- Publish these procedures.
Step 4 (cont.)

Policies and procedures needed:

• Timelines
• Responsibilities
• Rules
• Forms/other materials
• Judging process
• How/where to present prize
• Sustainability

http://www.easyhealth.org.uk/termsofuse.aspx
Website

www.moreheadstate.edu/library/prize
Step 5

Advertising
- Professors
- Students
- Modes/Media
Marketing to Professors

- Improved research resources = improved research papers
- Positive PR for department/discipline
- Student fellows
- Collection development liaisons
Marketing to Students

Money
Simple entry process
Eligibility
Criteria
Modes of Advertising

Newspaper Ads
Library Website/University Website
Bookmarks
Press Release
Fliers
30-60 second PSA
Radio Interview
Instruction/BI sessions
Word-of-Mouth

Sample table tent used for marketing in student center
Step 6

Process the entries

- Who receives them?
- How handle them?
- Render anonymous and deliver to judges

Step 7

Judge the entries

- Separate judging committee
- Chaired by librarian
- Using same rubric
- Entrants judged anonymously
Step 8

Award the Prize

• Your own ceremony?
• Existing ceremony?
• Publicize the winner

http://media-2.web.britannica.com/eb-media/65/97265-004-F1EE22AE.jpg
Step 9

Evaluate what you did (what worked and what didn’t)

• Survey the entrants
• Poll your committee
Step 10
Rinse and repeat.

Results

• 13 entries the first year!!
  (3 were disqualified)
• 6 entries the 2\textsuperscript{nd} year (?)
• Next year?
Questions?
Comments?
Snide Remarks?