

News Release: American Library Association

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98th Annual Conference
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Dallas, Texas

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Greenwich Public Schools is the winner of the top national award of \$5,000 for "outstanding achievement in providing exemplary library media programs in its elementary schools." The award is donated by Encyclopaedia Britannica and administered by the American Association of School Librarians. The award was presented at the Awards Festival Luncheon of the AASL on June 26, during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Dallas.

According to the sponsors, good school library media programs and personnel make it possible for creative teachers to provide boys and girls with the many needed resources for individualizing teaching and learning.

The purposes of the award are: (1) to emphasize the importance of elementary school library media programs as an integral part of instruction and curriculum for quality education (2) to demonstrate the vital nature and fundamental value of exemplary school library programs in the personal and social development of children; (3) to encourage total community support for the planning of the school library media program; (4) to underline the indispensable role of professional staff in providing library media services, and (5) to foster citizen

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understanding and stimulate continued public support for school media program growth.

The School Library Media Program of the Year Award was inaugurated by AASL and Britannica in 1972.

The members of the 1979 Selection Committee are Allan D. Quick (chairperson), library supervisor, West Linn (Oregon) Public Schools; Dr. David R. Bender, assistant director, division of library development and services, Maryland State Department of Education, Baltimore; Louise Dial, director of library services, Unified School District 260, Derby, Kansas; Lotsee Smith, School of Library Science, Texas Women's University, Denton; Elizabeth B. Stevens, Rochester (New York) City Schools; and Rebecca T. Bingham (ex-officio), director of media services, Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, Kentucky.