

**DRAFT****I. Name of Award**

The Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship Award

**II. Definitions, Purpose and Criteria for Award**

Fellowship(s) will be in the amount of \$3,750.00 and will be awarded annually at the Annual Meeting of the American Library Association by the Association ~~for~~ of Library Services to Children in cooperation with and funded by the Bechtel Fund, which is established as an endowment to provide funds for Fellowship(s) to qualified librarians residing in North America, who wish to read and study at the Baldwin Library of the George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida.

The purpose of these Fellowship(s) is to memorialize the work of Louise Seaman Bechtel in publishing literature for children and to enhance access to the special collection of children's materials formed and maintained in memory of Ruth M. Baldwin at the George A. Smathers Libraries of the University of Florida.

The candidates should be experienced librarians who have completed at least twelve years of work at a professional level in a children's library collection. The candidates must be holders of a completed graduate degree in Library Science from a program accredited by the American Library Association. They must be members of the Association of Library Services to Children.

Applications for the Fellowship(s) should show evidence of a continuing interest in the motivation of children to read and a description of the topic upon which they intend to read during the Fellowship period. The application should also explain how the Fellowship will benefit the candidates' professional work and enhance their ability to stimulate children to read for pleasure.

**III. Numbers and Frequency of Award**

The Fellowship(s) will be awarded annually, the number to be determined by the income available and the qualifications of the applicants, but not to exceed three (3) a year.

**DRAFT**  
**page 2****IV. Selection of Jury to Administer the Award**

ALSC will establish an awards committee to select recipients. Membership of the Awards Committee will comprise ALSC members capable of judging applications concerning reading and research in various aspects of the history and publishing of children's book.

**V. Deadline for Nomination of Candidates for Award**

Applicants will be solicited by the Awards Committee although unsolicited applications from the ALSC membership will be welcomed. Applicants should have their statements to the committee, or the ALSC Office, by the ~~first day of the Midwinter Meeting~~ *December 1*.

The Smathers Libraries will notify ALSC as to the number of Fellowships to be granted for the upcoming year.

**VII. Screening, Deliberation, Decision, Recommendation, and Confirmation of Award**

Following the committee's selection of Fellowship recipients, ALSC will forward the committee's report, together with the pertinent applications, to the Director of Libraries, George A. Smathers Libraries for University approval [The Bechtel Fund, a \$200,000 gift to the University of Florida Foundation and matched by the State of Florida under the Major Gifts Program by \$100,000, will be administered by the University of Florida Foundation, Inc..]

ALSC will then inform the Fellows of the award.

If, in the judgement of the Awards Committee, no qualified application is received in any one year, then no award(s) need to be made.

**DRAFT**  
**page 3**

**VII. Presentation of Award**

Each Fellowship will be awarded at the Annual Conference of the American Library Association at an appropriate meeting. ALSC will announce the awards in an environment and in such a manner as to encourage the widest publicity for the awards and the fellowship recipients.

**VIII. Form and Type of Award**

Each Fellowship will be in the amount of \$3,750 and will be for a period of at least one month. Recipients will be expected at the Baldwin Library during the months of February, March, or April in the year following the award. Checks will be issued and sent directly to the recipient three (3) months prior to the expected arrival date.

Fellowship amounts will be reviewed from time to time to ensure the current award amounts are sufficient.

The University of Florida will assist fellowship recipients to locate suitable housing in Gainesville, Florida, but all travel and local costs, including all taxes incurred are the responsibility of the Fellow.

**IX. Donor/Administrative Costs**

ALSC will support the program on a volunteer basis with the exception that specific and receipted expenses not exceeding \$500 per annum associated with making the awards, such as verification of candidate qualifications, advertising, copying, creating award certificates, and publicity will be reimbursed to ALSC out of the Bechtel Fund Income.

The administrative fees continue on an annual basis even if no qualified applicants are selected.

**X. Contact Person**

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