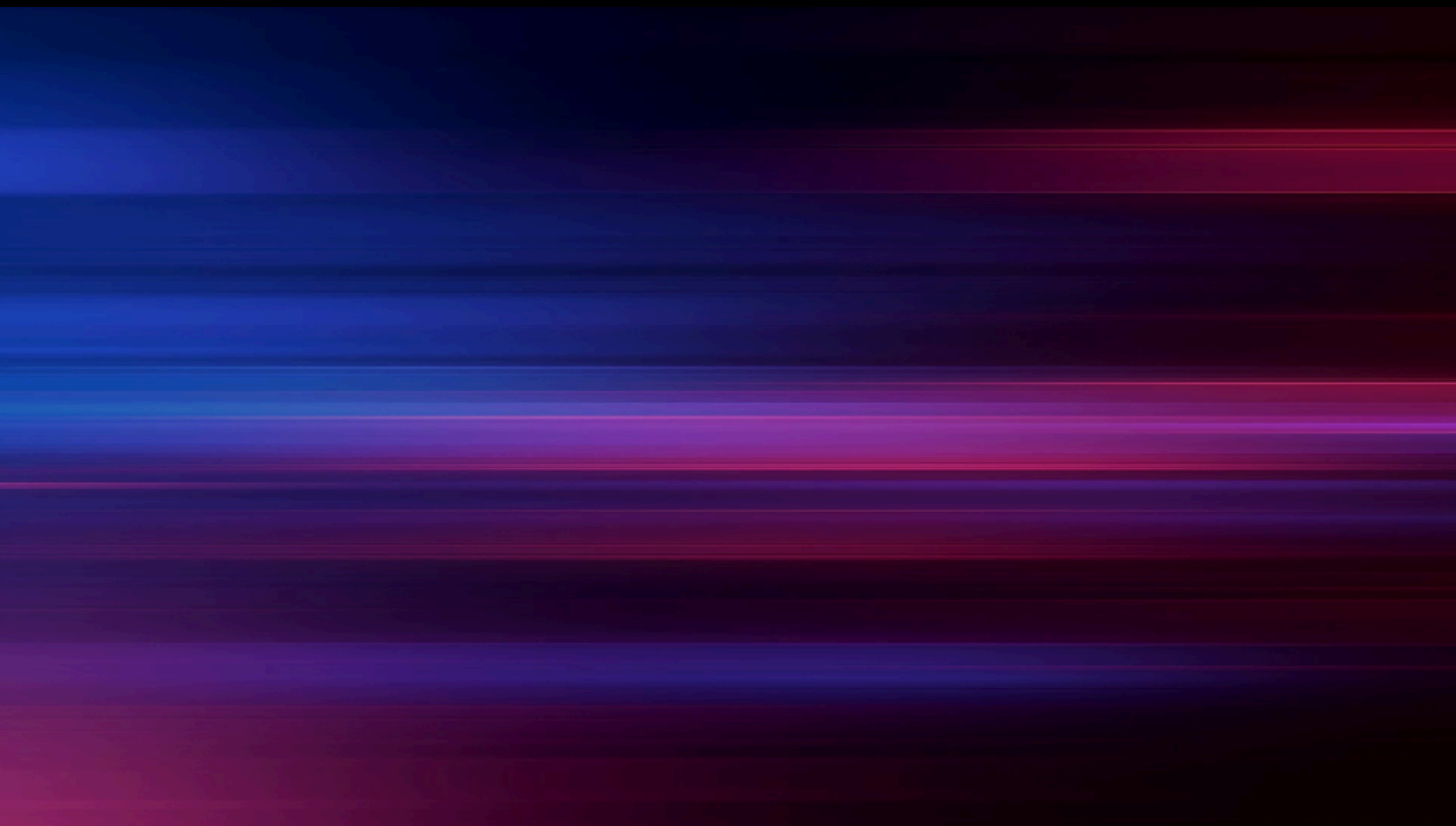
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Clarivate Library Innovation Awards 2027

Frequently Asked Questions

Drive innovation.
Share impact.



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About the Awards

What are the Clarivate Library Innovation Awards?

The Clarivate Library Innovation Awards recognize and celebrate innovation, creativity, and real-world impact in academic, national, and public libraries worldwide. The program aims to showcase transformative projects that have advanced library services, technology, community engagement, and operational excellence within the past two years.

Why were these Awards created?

The Awards support and recognize libraries driving positive changes, promoting thought leadership, inclusion, sustainability, and innovation across the global library community.

This is intended to be a platform for you to showcase your library's achievements and to be an inspiration to your peers in the library industry across the world.

Who organizes and manages the Awards?

The Awards program is managed by Clarivate, in partnership with the respective independent international User Groups as part of our joint commitment to supporting libraries and showcasing excellence across the industry.

Are these Awards global?

Yes. The Awards are global in scope, welcoming entries from academic, national, and public libraries worldwide.

Eligibility

Who can participate?

Applications are open worldwide to academic, national, public, and consortia libraries.

Can small or medium-sized libraries apply?

Yes. Libraries of any size, budget, or geographic region are encouraged to apply, provided they can demonstrate measurable impact or innovative approaches.

What projects or initiatives are eligible for submission?

Projects or initiatives must have been launched or significantly advanced within the past 24 months. They should demonstrate innovation that has driven measurable impact in areas such as community outcomes, patron engagement, student success, operational excellence, digital inclusion, accessibility, sustainability, or any other priorities aligned with your institution's mission.

Do projects need to involve Clarivate products?

No. Use of Clarivate products is not mandatory. Submissions can highlight initiatives that are totally independent, partially related, or fully supported by Clarivate solutions.

Are there any restrictions?

Institutions are not eligible if they are currently involved in an RFP process where Clarivate is a bidder or has been awarded the tender, or if they plan to publish an RFP within the next six months in which Clarivate could participate.

Can collaborative or consortium projects be submitted?

Yes. Collaborative submissions from consortia, library networks, or partnerships are welcome, provided the participating libraries clearly define their roles and individual contributions.

Award Categories

What are the award categories?

There are four main award categories, each corresponding to its respective community group:

ELUNA	IGeLU	IUG	Library Consortia
Member Library Innovation Award	Member Library Innovation Award	Member Library Innovation Award	Innovation Award

How many winners are selected?

In each category, three finalists will be selected. Each finalist will receive two all-expenses-paid passes to their respective User Group conference. From the three finalists in each category, one overall winner will be announced during the User Group event.

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Application Process

How can my institution apply?

Applications are submitted online through the dedicated application pages:

Academic Libraries

↗ Submit your entry

Public Libraries

↗ Submit your entry

What should my submission include?

Submissions should answer these questions:

Describe your project or initiative. Provide an overview of your project, including its goals, timeline, the challenge you faced and the opportunity it aimed to address.

What makes this project innovative or unique? Explain what distinguishes your initiative – for example, new ideas, creative partnerships, use of technology, or novel service models.

What measurable impact or outcomes has your project achieved? Describe how your project has benefited patrons, students, staff and/or the community. Include any supporting metrics, testimonials, or evidence to demonstrate results.

How do you ensure sustainability and scalability? Explain how this initiative could be maintained, expanded, or replicated in the future. What lessons have you learned that others could apply?

How does your project reflect inclusion, accessibility, and/or alignment with your institution's mission? Share how your initiative supports diversity, accessibility and/or equity, and how it advances your library's strategic goals.

Can multiple projects be submitted?

Yes. Institutions can submit more than one project as long as each is distinct and meets the eligibility criteria.

Is there an application fee?

No, participation is free.

Evaluation and Judging

Who will review, score, and adjudicate the applications?

An independent panel of judges from across the global library community has volunteered its time to review and score submissions against a transparent scoring rubric. The current panel includes distinguished members of the library community:

Allen Jones

Sr. Director, Digital Library & Technical Services – The New School Libraries

Beau Case

Dean of University Libraries, University of Central Florida

Dave Allen

Chair, IGeLU

Jason Griffith

Chair, ELUNA

Ken Chad

Library Advocate and Director, Ken Chad Consulting

Lynda James-Gilboe

Library Advocate and CEO, AdaptLeadSucceed

Marshall Breeding

Founder & Editor-in-Chief, LibraryTechnology.org

Stephanie Ruhe

Chair, IUG

How do you ensure impartiality and avoid conflict of interests in the judging process?

Each application will be randomly assigned to a judge who has no affiliation or connection with that Library, or its associated User Group. For example, an application from an IGeLU member institution in Spain will be assigned to a Judge who has no affiliation with IGeLU and is based in another geographic region.

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How will submissions be evaluated?

Each submission will be scored based on:

Innovation & Originality	20%
Impact & Outcomes	20%
Scope & Scale	10%
Sustainability & Future Planning	10%

Alignment to Mission/Strategy	10%
Inclusion & Community Engagement	10%
Role of Technology	5%
Clarity & Quality of Submission	15%

Recognition and Awards

What do winners and finalists receive?



Conference participation

Each of the 3 finalist libraries in every category will receive an all-expenses-paid pass for two library staff members to attend their relevant 2027 international User Group conference (ELUNA, IGeLU, or IUG). This includes travel, accommodation, and event registration costs for the two delegates from each of the finalists in each category.



Recognition

The three finalists in each category will be recognized on Day 1 during the opening plenary of the User Group conference, with Award certificates presented by senior Clarivate leaders. The overall winner in each category will be announced on Day 3 and presented with the Clarivate Award Trophy.



Industry Showcase

Finalists and winners will be offered the opportunity to be featured globally across Clarivate websites, in the press, and as part of future webinars and case studies. Each winning institution will also receive a Clarivate digital 'Library Innovation Award Winner' banner for their website.

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Timelines and Key Dates

NOV 20, 2026	FEB 18, 2027	MAR 4, 2027	2027 USER GROUP EVENTS
Submissions open	Submissions close and evaluations begin	Finalists announced	Winners celebrated live

Terms and Permissions

What happens to the materials submitted?

By submitting, entrants agree that Clarivate may showcase their projects for marketing, educational, and promotional purposes. Finalists also agree to display a Clarivate digital awards banner on their website.

Can my institution withdraw after submission?

Yes, institutions may withdraw their submission prior to the closing date by contacting the Clarivate Library Awards Team.

Support

Who can I contact for more information?

For questions about eligibility, submission format, or technical assistance, please contact the Clarivate Library Awards Team at libraryawards@clarivate.com

Additional Information

Can we reapply next year if not selected?

Yes. Non-winning projects may be resubmitted in future award cycles if significant progress or new outcomes have been achieved.

Are submissions accepted in languages other than English?

At this time, submissions should be in English. However, supporting materials, such as videos, documents, or other media in different languages are welcome.

Please read the Terms and Conditions for additional information

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