



OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

2018 Award Year

Purpose of the Award

The International Literacy Association (ILA) will present an award annually to honor an outstanding doctoral student whose research focused on the field of literacy or who conducted related research with implications for literacy.

Eligibility

The application process is open to those who have completed dissertations in any aspect of the field of reading or literacy between May 15, 2016, and May 14, 2017. Routine verification may be made with the home university of the applicant to protect all applicants, their universities, and the International Literacy Association from false claims.

Studies may use any research approach (ethnographic, experimental, historical, survey, etc.). Each study will be assessed in light of its approach, its scholarship, and its significant contributions to knowledge within the reading/literacy field.

The following conditions must be met:

- a. Applicants *must* be current members of the International Literacy Association.
- b. Applicants must have successfully defended their dissertation and had their dissertation approved by their committee between May 15, 2016, and May 14, 2017.
- c. An application and 40-page monograph based on the dissertation must be completed and submitted online by **January 15, 2018** at <https://fs6.formsite.com/intntlreading/form106/index.html>

Applicants will receive an e-mail confirmation after ILA receives the submitted application.

Applicant Information (to be completed online)

- ILA member number
- Membership expiration date
- Applicant name
- Mailing address
- Telephone number
- E-mail address
- Institutional affiliation

Dissertation and Degree Format

- Dissertation title
- Monograph title
- Name of university granting your degree
- University address granting your degree
- Name of dissertation committee chairperson
- Mailing address
- Telephone number
- E-mail address
- Names of other members of dissertation committee
- Date (month, day, year) of final dissertation submitted to university
- Date (month, day, year) on which university conferred your degree

Monograph Preparation and Format

The following documents must be uploaded on
<https://fs6.formsite.com/intntlreading/form106/index.html>

Please have these documents ready to submit in this order.

1. Abstract

Provide a 150-word abstract. You should state (in nontechnical language) the purpose and major findings of your study. Please include the *full* title of your monograph.

2. Table of Contents

The Table of Contents for your monograph should list major divisions and headings in the monograph. Please include a short title of your monograph.

3. Dissertation Monograph

The applicant must submit a monograph based on his/her dissertation research. The evaluation is made solely upon this monograph. Please include a short title of your monograph. Follow the guidelines below:

The main portion of the monograph should be no longer than 40 typewritten pages in length, double-spaced, using 12-point or larger type size. If the applicant requires additional space in which to present details of a research

instrument or to elaborate on some other vital point, an appendix of up to three additional pages may be attached. The Title Page, Table of Contents, and References are not included in the page count. Manuscripts that exceed the set page length will be returned. The monograph should represent the theoretical framework, methodology, results and discussion of the complete dissertation. It is important to note that the best manuscripts have condensed the much longer dissertation and included the most important and relevant parts in the monograph.

4. References

Reference work should be formatted using current American Psychological Association (APA) style. To accommodate the blind review process, the applicant's own publications should not be cited in such a way as to give away her or his identity. Instead, the applicant should substitute his/her name with *Author* when citing his/her publications (e.g., Author, 2010).

The Review Process

1. The members of the ILA Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee (except for the chairperson) will read and rate all monographs through a blind-reviewed process. Each committee member is instructed *not* to rate any submissions if he or she
 - a. is the chair of the dissertation committee
 - b. is a member of the dissertation committee
 - c. feels he or she cannot conduct an impartial review.
2. The review will be a one-round review process, with a second round held if needed for a tie breaker to determine a clear winner.
3. The monographs will be evaluated using the following criteria:
 - Significance of topic within the field of reading/literacy
 - Quality of theoretical/conceptual rationale
 - Methodological and scientific soundness
 - Significance of findings and quality of interpretation and implications
 - Clarity of writing and organization

Presentation of the Award

The award will be presented at the ILA Conference in Austin, Texas, July 20–23, 2018. The recipient and finalists will be asked to present their dissertation research at the Dissertation Poster Session during the conference.

Promotion of the Award

ILA promotes the award through announcements during the ILA 2018 Conference, on the ILA website, and in e-newsletters. A summary of the winning dissertation is also published in *Reading Research Quarterly* (ILA's journal).

Summary of Dates and Deadlines

1. The doctoral degree must have been awarded, defended, and approved between May 15, 2016, and May 14, 2017, and the dissertation must have been defended and approved by May 14, 2017.
2. The submission deadline is **January 15, 2018**.
3. All applicants will be notified of the competition outcome in late April (via e-mail).

Please direct any questions about your monograph or this award to Wendy Logan at ILAAwards@reading.org.