

Cyril Barnard Memorial Prize

Medical librarianship is a fairly small, niche specialty, with no great ceremonies to honour those that have done exceptional work, and have made great contributions to the field. But, there are awards made, and one that Health Libraries Group takes great pride in bestowing is the Cyril Barnard Memorial Prize.

Cyril Barnard (1894-1959) had, for many years, served as the librarian of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where he devised the Barnard system of classification, as well as being one of the founders, and first chair of, the Medical Section of the Library Association in 1947. (Poynter, 1959) Following his death in a road accident in 1959 (Thornton, 1984), it was suggested that an award be set up in his name to commemorate his life and work. Initial suggestions were that the award be presented annually, but it was eventually decided that it should be made every three years, with a fund to set up the cost of the award.(Hipkins, 1959) The formal announcement came in July 1960, stating that the first presentation, for 'outstanding contribution to medical librarianship', would be in 1962.(Thornton, 1984)

The first recipient of the award was William J. Bishop in 1962. This was awarded posthumously following his death in 1961.(Brodman, 1961) The award was presented at that year's annual Medical Section Dinner in the form of an engraved silver salver.(Thornton, 1984) The tradition of making the presentation at a formal dinner continued until 1977, which was also the final year that a salver was presented.(Thornton, 1984)

The prize continues to be awarded, with the most recent recipient being Anne Brice from Public Health England in 2014. (Brice & Grant, 2014)

Year	Recipient
1962	William J. Bishop
1965	Frank Rogers
1968	Brian Armitage
1971	Leslie Morton
1974	William R. LeFanu
1977	John Thornton
1980	Roy Tabor
1983	Anthony J. Harley
1986	Shane Godbolt
1989	Michael Carmel
1993	Derek Law
1996	Margaret Haines
1999	Judith Palmer
2002	Bob Gann
2005	Jean Shaw
2008	Margaret Forrest
2011	Andrew Booth
2014	Anne Brice

Table 1: Recipients of the Cyril Barnard Memorial Prize



Figure 3: Anne Brice is presented with the 2014 Cyril Barnard prize by David Stewart

However, no award was made in 2017, as the Health Libraries Group, the current successor to the Medical Section, has decided to amend the period between awards from three to two years, allowing the presentation to coincide with the biannual Health Libraries Group conference. To that end, the HLG Committee is inviting nominations for the 2018 Cyril Barnard Memorial Prize. Nominations can be made using [the online nominations form](#), and should be received by 30th April 2018.

References

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