

Timothy & Cynthia Shanahan Outstanding Dissertation Award—Submission Guidelines

This award from the International Literacy Association (ILA) is given annually for a dissertation completed in reading or literacy. Summaries of winning dissertations are published each year in [Reading Research Quarterly](#).

Sponsored by [Timothy](#) and [Cynthia Shanahan](#)

Submission Timeline

- Award opens week of **November 15, 2020**
- Award closes **March 15, 2021**
- Applicants are notified of the results via email by the **end of June 2021**

Eligibility

All applicants *must* be current members of ILA. To become an ILA member or renew your membership, please contact ILA Customer Service at 800.336.7323, 302.731.1600, or customerservice@reading.org or visit <https://literacyworldwide.org/membership> to join or renew online.

The application process is open to those who have completed dissertations in any aspect of the field of reading or literacy between May 2019 and May 2020 and had their dissertation approved by their committee. 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.

Previously published monographs are not eligible for this award.

How to Apply

Complete your submission using our [online application process](#).

Dissertation and Degree Information

The following materials should be uploaded **as one document** (*Important note: Failure to upload all items below will result in your application being unsubmitted.*):

DO NOT include your name, institutional affiliation, or any other personal information that will identify you (or any coapplicant) on any part of the proposal (other than the Profile page). The review process is conducted as a blind review.

1. Title Page

▪ Dissertation and Degree Format

- Dissertation title
- Monograph full title
- Name of university granting your degree
- University address granting your degree
- Name of dissertation committee chairperson
- Chairperson mailing address
- Chairperson telephone number
- Chairperson email 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

2. Table of Contents

The Table of Contents for your monograph should list major divisions and headings in the monograph.

3. Dissertation Monograph

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

The main portion of the monograph should be **no longer than 40 typewritten pages (not including references), 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 uploaded as a **Supplemental File for Review**. The Title Page and Table of Contents are also *not* included in the page count. Manuscripts that exceed the set page length will be unsubmitted. 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

Please provide complete bibliographic information for all sources cited in the proposal. References should be formatted using American Psychological Association (APA) style. To accommodate the blind review process, if the submitter's own publications are cited, the submitter should substitute the word *Author* in the citations (e.g., Author, 2018) and substitute all coauthor names with *Coauthor* (e.g., Author, Coauthor, 2018).

Review Process

- The members of the ILA Timothy and Cynthia Shanahan Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee (except for the chairperson) will read and rate all monographs through a blind review process. Each committee member is instructed *not* to rate any submissions if he or

she is the chair or member of the dissertation committee or feels he or she cannot conduct an impartial review.

- 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.
- The monographs will be evaluated using the following criteria:
 - Significance of Research Question
 - Theoretical Framework/Literature Review
 - Rationale for the Research
 - Appropriateness and Adequacy of the Methodology/Approach
 - Significance/Implications for Practice and Research
 - Clarity, Cohesion, and Specificity

Please direct any questions to ILAAwards@reading.org.