



Innovation, inspiration, imagination - announcing the CoLRiC call for nominations for our 2021 awards

'Libraries play a critical role in supporting organisational goals and strategies. Our resources and services have demonstrable value and impact helping create and sustain an institution-wide lifelong learning environment.'

Mirna Peach and Corinne Walker, the Co-Chairs of CoLRiC

A significant CoLRiC membership benefit is the eligibility to nominate a team or individual for one of our two prestigious annual awards. We are committed to acknowledging and celebrating exemplary practice and innovation across the FE and Sixth Form College sector. We are looking for applications from teams or individuals that can demonstrate the value and impact of their service provision in any capacity. We want to showcase creativity, resourcefulness, enterprise and ingenuity in the delivery of library and learning resource services and are delighted to announce that 2021 nominations are now open for the:

- CoLRiC Innovative Practice Award (*formerly known as the Best Practice Award*)
- Jeff Cooper Inspirational Information Professional of the Year Award

CoLRiC Innovative Practice Award

This was formerly known as the Best Practice Award (BPA.) Last year we announced the call for nominations shortly before we entered the first Covid-19 lockdown. The circumstances we worked in changed dramatically, but we rose to the unprecedented challenge.

This year, we are keen to acknowledge how your service has responded to the pandemic. We are looking for inspiring and creative teamwork and initiatives, 'lockdown-centric' nominations that reflect the adaptability of the profession in adverse circumstances. How did you improve and maintain engagement with your students and colleagues? How did you and your colleagues look beyond the standard online service delivery model that everyone was forced to adopt, and think outside the lockdown box?

Did you initiate a project before lockdown and then adapt it to reflect circumstances? Did you launch a new service? We want to encourage you to submit projects that have a strong focus on the future; learning from, rather than being restricted by the effects of the pandemic on your service. Innovative

practice, sustainability, and the level of impact on teaching and learning will be key themes the judging panel will be looking out for. The world is your oyster in terms of topics, but examples may include initiatives embracing digital/information literacy, reading and numeracy, marketing and social media, student and teaching staff engagement and remote/web services delivery, for example.

We are delighted that this year's CoLRiC Innovative Practice Award is sponsored by IS Oxford.



The Jeff Cooper Inspirational Information Professional of the Year Award

Do you work with a colleague who has made an exceptional contribution to the workplace? The Jeff Cooper Award for Inspirational Information Professional of the Year is named in honour of CoLRiC's founder and will be presented to an **individual** who has demonstrated a commitment to change lives and empower students.

'To be acknowledged by one's peers is the greatest professional compliment.' Jeff Cooper

We are looking for 2021 nominations for a colleague in your Library/Learning Resources Service who has a proven commitment to meeting the needs of students in any capacity: academic, personal or vocational; who engage with, and cultivate, productive collaborative partnerships with academic staff and student support services.

The nominee can be at any level in the service, from library assistant to senior manager if they are inspirational, enthusiastic team players or leaders, creative, resourceful and enterprising and dedicated to going that extra mile to deliver excellence and innovation.

In September 2020 we were delighted to announce that the winner of the 2020 Jeff Cooper Award for Inspirational Information Professional of the Year was Benjamin Poore, Library and Study Skills Assistant, from Leyton Sixth Form College library. The judges felt that Ben was a *'committed, creative and innovative individual, who is making a really impressive contribution to library service delivery.'* They were impressed by the variety of student support activities in which Ben is involved and felt that his focus on facilitating outcomes for individual learners is truly inspirational. Ben received a certificate and a trophy.

Go for it!

We encourage as many of you as possible to nominate yourselves or other teams and individuals for these two 2021 awards. Many participating Colleges have expressed how beneficial the nomination

process was for them. It is a great opportunity to dust yourselves down, reflect on how you have survived 2020 and celebrate your achievements.

'Gathering testimonials from academic staff was a really positive experience. It is great to reflect on what you have achieved, as - by necessity – we spend our days focused on the immediate moment. At a time when we feel quite vulnerable, it has given us a real uplift.'

What will you get out of this?

There will be a fanfare, publicity, certificates and trophies for the winners and we will celebrate your achievements in our e-newsletter CoLRiC Impact and across our social media accounts. All nominations will be showcased in our publications.

How do you submit?

Any College Library/Learning Resources Service that is a current member of CoLRiC is eligible to submit a nomination for either award.

One application (for each award) will be accepted from your College, authorised by the Head of Service and Vice Principal (or equivalent).

The CoLRiC admin will email you all the relevant supporting documentation. If you require further advice and information, please contact Gary and Val at: colric@colric.org.uk.

Timelines

- Submissions are open from Friday 14th May 2021.
- The closing date is 6 pm on Friday 16th July 2021.
- The winner will be chosen from all submissions and notified by the end of August.
- The winner will be announced early in September.

All entries will be shortlisted by the CoLRiC Executive Committee and winners chosen by a judging panel including an independent external judge.