W.J.B. Dorn Research Awards

Awards up to $1,000 may be used to underwrite travel, lodging, copying and other research expenses. Each application will be evaluated on its merits. Primary consideration will be given to projects involving the substantive study of issues of general interest and doctoral and post-doctoral studies. Each proposal should be aimed at a discrete end product such as a book, dissertation, thesis, article, documentary, film, or exhibit. Budgets may be approved in whole or in part. Each award recipient is required to acknowledge the award in any resulting published work(s) and donate a copy of the work(s) to SCPC. The recipient may also be requested to submit a brief article summarizing their findings and research experience for publication by the University.

Current research awards are funded through the generosity of friends and supporters of William Jennings Bryan Dorn. Bryan Dorn represented South Carolina’s Third District in the United States Congress for thirteen terms between 1948 and 1974. He entered the House in a freshman class that included Carl Albert, John F. Kennedy, and Richard M. Nixon. An eloquent advocate of South Carolina's interests, Dorn was particularly effective in the areas of agriculture, industrialization, and highway construction. He was a noted champion of both the Southern textile industry and the interests of America’s veterans. In 1974, Bryan Dorn retired from Congress and donated his congressional papers to the University. It is among the largest collections ever received and opened for study by the University. More than one hundred and fifty feet of papers, photographs, newspaper clippings, and audiovisual records, dating from 1912 to 2005, document Dorn’s life and service to South Carolina and the nation as a soldier, legislator, and as chair of the state Democratic Party, 1980 to 1984. Mr. Dorn passed away in 2005.

No standard form is needed to apply, but each application should include proof of U.S. citizenship and:

- Full name, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address
- A description of the research project in under one thousand words
- A personal vita
- A project budget clearly stating the amount sought and the use to which the award will be put
- At least one but no more than three letters of reference attesting to the applicant’s scholarly ability and significance of their research project

Applications will be accepted and awards announced throughout the year. Recipients are required to submit receipts showing expenses up to the amount of the award.

Applications should be addressed to:

Research Awards
S.C. Political Collections
U.S.C. Libraries
720 College Street
Columbia, SC 29208