Most government information is “born digital” and published electronically. In addition to the digital government information explosion, the increased shift towards e-government services by governments and agencies requires many libraries to now devote a large amount of staff time to education about and delivery of e-government. This steady march towards pervasive e-government services places considerable new obligations, opportunities, and challenges on libraries across a broad service context.

The continued growth of e-government services raises many fundamental questions about the nature of government information, as well as its management, dissemination, access, and preservation through libraries. E-government also offers opportunities for new and innovative approaches for governments to serve their public. At the same time, many members of the public face significant challenges to accessing and using e-government, due to limited technology access, limited digital literacy, or barriers within the design of e-government. The evolving landscape is such that there is a need for:

- New skills that prepare librarians to meet the demands of e-government librarianship;
- An understanding of the policy and governance context that impact e-government, government information, and the relationship between libraries, governments, and the public; and
- New approaches to LIS education for the e-government context.

In partnership with the American Library Association (ALA), the University of Maryland College Park iSchool received a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian scholarship grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for 15 e-government librarian scholarships. This scholarship grant builds on and leverages the successful 2009 Government Information Service in the 21st Century scholarship grant funded by IMLS, (see [http://ipac.umd.edu/our-work/government-information-scholarships](http://ipac.umd.edu/our-work/government-information-scholarships)).
service-21st-century for more details regarding that program) and the iSchool’s established E-government specialization.

**Program Details**

The grant includes funds for 15 scholarships (10 in-state and 5 out-of-state) for the ALA-accredited MLS program of the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland’s online e-government concentration. Students would be part of an online e-government librarian cohort with up to 25 students and graduate from the program in Summer 2015 after a two-year 36-credit program of study.

The program is founded on four integrated components:

- **Coursework.** The coursework serves as the intellectual and conceptual basis for the evolving government information environment.
- **Practice.** Through a field study that includes placements (virtual or physical) in libraries and government agencies, students develop applied e-government information and service skills.
- **Professional.** Through presentations, discussions, and other online interactive approaches, students are exposed to leading scholars and practitioners throughout the program.
- **Scholarship.** Through inclusion in the review and manuscript development process of *Government Information Quarterly*, students publish government resource reviews, contribute to furthering scholarship in government information, and learn the publication process. In addition, students in the program are brought into existing research projects.

These four aspects of the program provide an essential foundation for enrolled students, serving as a platform for innovative e-government service delivery.

**What the Scholarships Fund**

The grant provides tuition scholarships for 10 students at the in-state tuition rate and 5 students at the out-of-state tuition rate. The grant does not cover university-imposed fees (currently at approximately $500 per semester), or course materials.

**Timeline**

Students would begin their program of study in Fall 2013, and graduate Summer 2015. Students would take two classes (6 credits) during the fall, spring, and summer sessions during these two years. The program is completely online, with the opportunity to have either virtual or physical field placements.

**Applications are due February 1, 2013.**

Additional program details and requirements are available at egov.umd.edu.