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Dr. Ravindra Sharma Awarded Librarian of the Year

Dr. Ravindra Nath (R.N.) Sharma, director of the WVSU Drain-Jordan Library was named the 2005 Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) Academic/Research Librarian of the Year. The award, sponsored by Yankee Book Peddler (YBP) Library Services, recognizes an outstanding member of the library profession who has made a significant national or international contribution to academic/research librarianship and library development.

Sharma will receive a \$3,000 award and a plaque at the 2005 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Chicago. "The committee unanimously chose Dr. Sharma because of his unequaled contributions to the field of international librarianship," said award committee chair Edward A. Warro. "He has sustained a distinguished record of writing books and journal articles as well as presentations which have made Americans and others more aware of global issues in librarianship. He has served ALA, ACRL and the International Federation of Library Associations admirably by chairing and serving on many committees dealing with international issues."

The committee particularly admired Sharma's work with the United Negro College Fund and USAID to establish a partnership with the National University of Benin in West Africa. "He has produced an outstanding body of research and has also applied his research in meaningful, multicultural programs such as that in Benin. Dr. Sharma has devoted his life to his work and his research and richly deserves this recognition," said Warro.

"I was nervous and speechless when President Frances Maloy called me," said Sharma. "I am honored and pleased to win the ACRL Academic/Research Librarian of the Year Award. The bold and unanimous decision of the Award Committee has convinced me that hard work always results in recognition by your peers. I am full of energy and will continue to contribute to the development of the profession and academic libraries for many more years."

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RN Sharma (second from right) working with consultants in Benin

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