

AAHSL Assessment and Statistics Review Task Force Charge

The AAHSL Assessment and Statistics Committee conducts four surveys of the AAHSL institutional membership:

- Annual Statistics (annually)
- Salary Survey (annually)
- Descriptive Library Survey (every three years)
- Resources and Services Survey (every five years)

The AAHSL Annual Statistics, now in its 37th annual edition, is the longest continuous initiative in AAHSL history and certainly one of the more venerable. Yet there is evidence of a need to re-evaluate this mainstay:

1) Response rate is lackluster; half of eligible respondents submit their data by the deadline and three-quarters only after an extension and repeated prodding. There is not 100% participation.

2) Whenever attempts are made to solicit testimonials from members concerning how they use the statistics, there is little response.

This raises the question of whether AAHSL members find the Annual Statistics and the companion surveys worth the trouble of compiling and submitting the data. Assessment and Statistics Committee members – those who edit and review the submitted data – are feeling the weight of a demanding process, especially in light of what is perceived as waning interest.

Assessment and Statistics Review Task Force is charged with assessing the value of the Annual Statistics and three companion surveys to members and recommending needed changes.

The Task Force is asked to:

- Query Assessment and Statistics Committee members to understand the problems and issues with the current situation.
- Work with the Committee, using readily available data sources, to analyze trends in response rate to surveys and usage of data analysis tools, and any other data points relevant to usage and value. For example, CLIR is partnering with Stanford University Libraries to pilot a new set of measures, at least some of it based on the Measures of Information Service Outcomes — www.misosurvey.org.
- Solicit information from AAHSL members on whether they use the Annual Statistics and companion surveys, and if so, for what and how frequently. If not, why not? (Solicitation could be by surveys, interviews, interactive web sessions,

- etc.)
- Recommend whether the program should continue in its current form or not.
 - If so, recommend how the program's value to members be improved.
 - For example
 - Discontinue the Annuals Statistics survey and devise occasional, focused surveys based on member interest; continue the Salary survey and alternate the Descriptive and Resources/Services surveys every 3 years, etc.
 - If the Annual Statistics survey should be continued, what data elements should no longer be collected? And, what data elements that have not been collected to date should be?
 - If recommended the program continue in some form, suggest improvements in the reviewing and editing processes that are less labor intensive and burdensome. For example, is reviewing data for errors and quality necessary? What would be the loss of not doing this?
 - Determine the cost (including time/labor) of producing the print format and recommend whether it should be continued or not.

Task Force Timeline:

1. Appointed and convened by January 2015
2. Deliver work plan and progress report to the AAHSL Board of Directors for consideration at the Board meeting in February 18-20, 2015
3. Complete work by September 2015 and submit a report with recommendations to the Board of Directors by October 1, 2015.