

## Assessment and Statistics Committee 2014 Annual Report

This report provides a summary of the Committee's activities and accomplishments in each of the following areas:

- The completion of the 36th Edition Annual Statistics (FY12/13) surveys
- The opening of the 37th Edition surveys—Salary, Annual, and Services & Resources
- Future surveys
- Web Portal: Further enhancements, tools and capabilities completed and projected for completion this year
- Leadership of the Committee and Editorship of the Annual Statistics.
- Education and communication about the surveys and assessment

The Committee met twice during the year: for a full day on Saturday, May 17 during the Medical Library Association Meeting, and for a two hour meeting on Friday morning, November 1 at the AAMC conference.

### **The 36th Edition *Annual Statistics* surveys:**

The fall 2013 surveys for fiscal year 2012-2013 included the two core Annual Statistics and Salary surveys and the Descriptive survey. The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual survey contained only minor wording changes for clarification. The Descriptive Survey was slightly revised.

For the Annual and Descriptive surveys, responses were received from 129 libraries (a 67.9% response rate): 114 from U.S. allopathic medical school libraries, 6 from Canadian medical school libraries, 1 from the library serving an affiliated medical school program in Qatar, one from a research library, and 7 from libraries serving osteopathic medicals. In addition, 124 of these libraries also completed the salary survey and one other library submitted only a salary survey. These were record high numbers of responding libraries. The results were tabulated in tables and made available in the Annual Statistics Web Portal in mid-January 2014.

The print version of the *Annual Statistics* was completed and distributed in May. It included more and extensively revised presentations of the Descriptive survey tables.

The committee encourages all to review the Composite Health Sciences Library information for FY13 on pages 12 to 22 of the printed Annual Statistics. Of particular interest is the Salaries analysis on pages 21 and 22.

Increases in mean values:

- Recurring Expenditures
- Volumes in Storage (14.63%)
- Serial Titles
- Health Sciences Databases
- Information Resource Expenditures: Total, Serials, Databases, Electronic Resources
- Electronic resources expenditures as a percentage of total collection expenditures
- Total Expenditures: Staff Development, Total collections, Other Recurring, Total Recurring, Capital (201.85%), Total Annual
- Special Source Expenditure Subtotals: From Grants and Contracts, From "Indirects"
- Service Use: Educational Session Attendance, Outreach Sessions, Participants in Outreach Sessions. (Note there were fewer educational sessions with an increase in attendance.)

Decreases in mean values:

- Library FTE Total (-3.1%)

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- Total Print Volumes
- Information Resource Expenditures: Monographs
- Resource and Service Use: Gate Count, Total circulation (-13.56%), ILL items borrowed, ILL items filled (-8.84), Document delivery requests filled, Total reference transactions

### Electronic Resource Use synopsis:

Website use statistics resumed their downward trend of the few years before last year, when they increased. Electronic reference transactions resumed their long trend of steady increases, after a brief halt last year. The number of online self-paced tutorials again increased, but their average reported use dramatically declined. However, these sharp declines in use, for both the Composite Library and for libraries reporting non-zero use, may reflect the difficulty in accurately and consistently measuring this activity and suggest a need for new ways of measuring it.

### The 37th Edition Annual Statistics Surveys:

The 37th edition of the Annual survey was revised during the summer of 2014 and opened to the membership for data entry in September. The few changes were changes to the wording for clarification. The 37th Edition of the Salary survey also opened in September and contained no substantial revisions. The 37th Edition of the Services & Resources survey also opened in September and contained rewording for clarity and substantial expansion.

### Fall 2015 Surveys:

The surveys that will be completed in the fall of 2015 are: the 38th Edition salary and annual survey.

### The Annual Statistics Web Portal:

The contract with the University of Buffalo for hosting and maintaining the portal was renewed in early 2014. The service costs between \$9,000 and \$13,000 annually. The programming language used to create the portal is old and it may soon be necessary to rewrite the program with a more contemporary software package.

The following enhancements to the Web Portal tools and capabilities have been completed since the 2013 Annual Report:

- The Salary data regression analysis was programmed to run automatically and to create the summary data table from this analysis for the print version of the Annual Statistics.
- Added a "Forgot Password?" utility that allows authorized users to update a forgotten password directly on the Portal website.

Beth Layton and Steve Squires continuously work with Steve Gallo of the Center for Computational Research at the U. of Buffalo to enhance and improve the Portal functionalities and presentations. Ideas for enhancement are suggested by them, other members of the Committee, and discussed with the Committee. Enhancements currently under review include:

- Implement Google Analytics in order to have some data on use of the portal site.
- Clear up all issues related to missing and estimated data and how they are handled and displayed in autosum and summing values.
- In some way, provide the exact texts of past surveys, even if the question text has changed but the question concept has not. Perhaps the solution for this is simply to have the past survey texts viewable from separate links rather than preserve the exact text as surveys change.
- Clear up any remaining issues about how corrected data is accepted and displayed and handled in autosum and summing values.

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- Clear up the reporting formatting problem related to Q15 of the 2013 Descriptive survey so that it matches the 2010 format.
- Allow for abbreviated labels when answer options become lengthy.
- Possibly, improve navigation of the surveys and site tools for the Editor.

### **Leadership of the Assessment & Statistics Committee:**

Because Beth Layton took a new position as the Associate Director, Greater Midwest Region, National Network of Libraries of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago, she was named Interim Chair of the Committee in August 2014.

### **Education and Communication about the Surveys and Assessment**

Beth Layton, Committee Chair, identifies information about assessment and shares it through the AAHSL-All listserv. The committee continues to discuss assessment.

### **Committee Membership:**

Completed their service before the 36th Edition surveys were edited—  
Mary Piorun (2014)  
Joanne M. Muellenbach (2014)

Continuing their service on the Committee—  
Beth A. Layton, Interim Chair and Editor (2015)  
Steve Squires, Managing Editor (2015)  
Cecilia Botero (2016)  
Pam Bradigan (2016)  
Laura Cousineau (2015)  
Jennifer McKinnell (2016)  
Rod McNeil (2017)  
Jeanette Ryan (2015)  
Matthew Wilcox (2016)

Will join the Committee after the 2014 AAHSL Annual Meeting—  
Nancy Tannery (2017)  
Richard Wood (2017)

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Layton, MLS, MBA, AHIP  
Associate Director, Greater Midwest Region, National Network of Libraries of Medicine  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Steve Squires  
Assessment and Research Services Librarian  
Health Sciences Library  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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### APPENDIX – Descriptive Survey Changes

Question modifications:

Q1: To which organizational unit does your library report

Change: added answer option: Other Health Sciences School

Q2: To what position does the library director report.

Change: Added answer option: Academic Provost or similar general academic administrator

Q15:

Combines Q15 and Q22 from the previous questions and expands the number of activities.

Lists activity area and asks:

How performed? Options are:

For Q15a, choose from among the following for each activity:

Our library has **Full Responsibility** for, and performs, this activity

Our library has **Shared Responsibility** for this activity with another library, department or agency

Our library has **Responsibility** for this activity, but it is **Outsourced** to another library, department, or agency

Our library has **No Responsibility** for, and does not perform, this activity; **but it is Provided by Another library, department, or agency** for our library or for our library's users

Our library has **No Responsibility** for this activity **and** it is also **Not Provided by Another library, department or agency** for our library or for our library's users (e.g., this activity is not performed at, or for, our library or institution at all).

Q15b, c, d asks for number of librarian/professional, paraprofessional/clerical, and student/hourly/non-permanent staff assigned to each activity