

AAHSL Assessment and Statistics Committee
Annual Report
October 30, 2017

Statistics Surveys:

The Committee completed and published the 2015/16 (39th edition) of the annual and salary surveys as well as the descriptive survey. For this 39th edition, 127 libraries completed the Annual survey, 126 the Salary, and 128 the Descriptive. The surveys opened for data entry on Aug. 1, 2016 and closed on Feb. 7, 2017.

In mid-September (2017), the Committee opened the 40th edition of the Annual and Salary Surveys and the Services and Resources Survey on the University of Buffalo platform to the membership for data entry. As of October 25, 2017:

2 libraries have submitted Annual surveys and 40 libraries have begun entering data
12 libraries have submitted Salary surveys and 36 libraries have begun entering data
8 libraries have submitted Resources/Services surveys and 35 libraries have begun entering data

Our first stated deadline for completion of the surveys is November 30, 2017.

Committee Members:

Steve Squires, the editor of the surveys, retired from the University of North Carolina and per agreement with the Board, signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the end of the last calendar year (2016) to continue as Editor for a six month period on a paid hourly basis. This contract was subsequently renewed mid-year for another six-month period. I intend to ask the Board to consider another six month renewal to cover the first six months of calendar year 2018.

The committee lost two members over the calendar year: Nancy Tannery moved out of the library at the University of Pittsburgh to a position in the Provost's office, and; Laura Cousineau recently left her position at Dartmouth to assume a job at the American Medical School in Antigua, a non-AAHSL member school.

Two new members have been recruited to the committee beginning at the November AAHSL meeting: Rick Fought of the University of Tennessee at Memphis and Nancy Alee of the University of Michigan. They join the following continuing committee members:

Jennifer McKinnell, McMaster University
Matt Wilcox, Quinnipiac University
Scott Thomson, Rosalind and Franklin University
Marie Ascher, New York Medical College
Stephanie Ferretti, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Steve Squires, retired, Editor
Ruth Riley, Board Liaison, University of South Carolina
Rod MacNeil, Chair, Thomas Jefferson University

Committee Meetings:

The committee met in-person for a one and a half hour meeting before the start of the annual AAHSL meeting in Seattle in November 2016.

We had numerous phone and webinar sessions during the spring of 2017 to review the surveys. The Committee met for a full-day meeting again in Seattle in May before the start of the MLA meeting.

The Committee will be meeting in Boston for a 3 hour afternoon session before the start of the annual AAHSL meeting.

Survey Reviews:

The Annual Survey and Services and Resources Survey were extensively revised by the Committee before the release to the membership this fall. The Annual Survey questions were edited and reduced by 17 for a new total of 40; the content on the Services and Resources Survey was significantly modified and the item count reduced by approximately one-half. The Salary Survey was not changed. The Committee will review the Descriptive Survey at its November meeting.

The survey review was prompted by a consideration of moving the AAHSL survey program to a different platform from the existing one at the University of Buffalo to a service managed by a commercial firm, Counting Opinions, based in Toronto. Counting Opinions provided us with a comparative analysis of our current survey questions with the annual ACRL survey's questions. Our initial thinking was that if they two surveys were very similar, we could base our annual survey on the ACRL survey. Our analysis, in fact, showed that the two surveys were not that similar and that we would be better served by revising our current survey to best reflect the operations of an academic health sciences library.

Survey Platform:

With the assistance of Steve Squires, Ruth Riley and Neil Rambo, I have engaged Counting Opinions in a number of discussions this year about having AAHSL adapt their LibPas platform for our annual and special surveys. We have received a cost/service proposal from Counting Opinions and are prepared to bring it before the Board at the November 2017 meeting, with the plan of moving forward with Counting Opinions in spring of 2018 for the next survey cycle.

Rod MacNeil
Committee Chair