Assessment and Statistics Committee
2011 Annual Report
(Updated February 2012)

Another productive year for our Committee has included: the successful completion of the two core annual surveys (Annual Statistics and Salary) with a record high number of participating libraries for both; a review of the results of the e-resources licensing and use statistics questions from the 2010 33rd Edition survey and a very lively and useful discussion of these statistics with the membership during the Annual Statistics Update session at the fall annual meeting; the completion of additional enhancements to the Annual Statistics Web Portal; and the approval of a transition plan for the roles of Committee chair and Editor of the Annual Statistics. The Committee met twice during the year: for a full day on Saturday, May 14 during the Medical Library Association conference in Minneapolis, and for two hours on Sunday morning, November 6 at the AAMC conference in Denver.

This report provides a summary of the Committee's activities and accomplishments in each of the following areas: 1) the completion of the 33rd Edition Annual Statistics surveys; 2) the completion of the 34th Edition surveys with minor revisions to the core survey questions; 3) The decision to delete the e-resources licensing and use statistics questions from the 34th edition Annual Statistics survey and the results of the round-table discussions of these questions at the fall 2011 annual meeting; 4) the enhancements to the Web Portal tools and capabilities completed and projected for completion this year; and 5) the approval and completion of a leadership transition plan for the Committee and Editorship of the Annual Statistics.

The 33rd Edition *Annual Statistics* surveys: The summary tables from the four fall 2010 annual surveys (Annual Statistics, Salary, Descriptive Statistics and Resources & Services Profile) were edited and posted in the Annual Statistics Web Portal by early February 2011 and the print version of the *Annual Statistics* was completed and distributed in late May. This included the data from three of the four surveys conducted: the regular Annual Statistics Survey, the Salary Survey and the 2010 Descriptive Statistics Survey. The Annual Statistics Survey questions reporting licensing and use statistics for core e-Books (15), e-Journals (37) and databases (10) were summarized title by title in 26 tables in the Portal (Tables 33.4C1.1a to 33.4C3.2b). Gary created six additional tables to further summarize published print version summarizes of the data in these tables (two for each type of e-Resource). These were included in the print edition and also added to the Portal summary tables. The print edition also included, for the first time, a complete list of the libraries that <u>did not participate</u> in the annual surveys (on page 257). The Composite Health Sciences Library data from the core surveys showed significant *increases* from previous years in the total number of accessible (mostly electronic) serial titles and online self-paced tutorials as well as electronic reference transactions. These data also showed significant *decreases* from previous years in: other-than-personnel-and-collections recurring expenditures, revenues from primary teaching hospitals and from gifts and endowments, total circulation, and website page views.

The 34th Edition *Annual Statistics* surveys: The fall 2011 surveys were limited to the two core Annual Statistics and Salary surveys. In addition to eliminating the e-resources and licensing use statistics questions, the surveys had only the following minor changes:

- The Annual Statistics survey asked for subtotals of the number of librarians (Q 26a) and other professional staff (Q 26b), and also subtotals of the number of in-person education sessions (Q 44a) and "live" online synchronous education sessions (Q 44b).
- The Salary survey added one additional preliminary demographic question on whether the library supports an allopathic or osteopathic school of medicine or both (Q 5) and also another variable was added for each professional position included in the Salary Table: whether the salary reported is for a regular, permanently-filled or an interim/temporary position.

For the 34th Annual Statistics survey, responses were received from 127 libraries (a 72.2% response rate): 115 from U.S. allopathic medical school libraries, 4 from Canadian medical school libraries, 1 from the library serving an affiliated medical school program in Qatar, and 7 from libraries serving osteopathic medicals. In addition, 119 of these libraries also completed the salary survey. These were both record high numbers of responding libraries. The results were tabulated in tables and made available in the Annual Statistics Web Portal in mid-January 2012. The Composite Health Sciences Library data from these surveys showed significant *increases* from previous years in the total number of accessible (mostly electronic) serial titles, expenditures for electronic resources, and uses of online self-paced tutorials. These data also showed significant *decreases* in revenues from the sale of library services, total circulation from the print collections, and the number of in-person reference transactions.

The Elimination of E-Resources Licensing and Use Statistics Questions: Based on a Committee review of 2010 34th Edition results from these questions, we decided to delete them from the 2011 Annual Statistics survey and consider repeating them as a separate small survey apart from the Annual Statistics survey early in 2012. We also agreed to plan a mini-workshop session at the fall 2011 AAHSL annual meeting in Denver. Based on the feedback from the round-table discussions at that mini-workshop session it became clear that 1) the membership still has very mixed feelings about the value of collecting this data, 2) even those members who valued having this kind of data had different views on how much data, and at what level of detail, to collect, and 3) creating summary reports like those Gary produced by hand for this data would require more programming time than our current development budget would permit. Therefore, we decided to postpone, any further surveys to collect this data until we have more time to consider the relative costs and benefits of different methods.

Additional Enhancements to the Annual Statistics Web Portal: The following enhancements to the Web Portal tools and capabilities have been completed since the 2010 Annual Report:

- A new set of tools allowing the Editor(s) to re-open individual surveys for a library wishing to revise (e.g., correct) and annotate questions from

past/closed surveys [This capability will be implemented this year after we confirm the Committee member editing procedures and responsibilities.]
- Changed the process for closing completed Salary Surveys so the Committee editors do not receive confusing messages.
- Enhanced the ability for users to scroll through the response options for all matrix questions, including the Salary Survey.
- Created an Associate Editor role in the Portal with the same capabilities as the Editor role.
- [**Will be ready for members to use in late March 2012**] The data analysis tool has been enhanced to make it possible to 1) combine numeric data from more than one survey; 2) build peer library groups based on similar (exact or within a range) responses to one or more questions in one or more surveys.

The following are additional enhancements that have been proposed, for which the Committee will set priorities for completion in 2012:
- Automate the formatting of the survey results Excel spreadsheets to speed up the final editing for the print version of the Annual Statistics
- Program the Salary data regression analysis into the Portal and create the summary data table from this analysis for the print version of the Annual Statistics
- Complete a number of minor formatting and editing tools changes to streamline the viewing and use of data from completed surveys in the Portal
- Program a single sign-on to the Web Portal from the AAHSL Memberclicks website
- Add a "Forgot Password?" that allows authorized users to update a forgotten password directly on the Portal website
- Develop a spreadsheet template that libraries can use throughout the year to collect, total and upload numeric survey data to the Portal automatically.
- Provide additional links from within the Portal to other Websites and data analysis tools relevant to users of the AAHSL Annual Statistics.
- Develop tools for member libraries to generate special one-time reports on regional or local sub-groups of libraries and to support the export of data for authorized researchers.
- Develop more sophisticated summary reports for complex matrix data survey questions such as those that collected the e-resources licensing and use data in the 33rd Edition Annual Statistics survey
- Add additional earlier years of retrospective survey data to the Portal

A Leadership Transition for the Assessment & Statistics Committee: Early in 2012 Gary began more focused email discussions with Committee member Steve Squires about a possible new model of leadership for the Assessment & Statistics Committee and

the Editorship of the Annual Statistics. Together they drafted and plan that was reviewed and approved by the Committee and the AAHSL Board of Directors. This plan will lead to a new Committee structure with two key leadership positions: the Commmittee chair and Editor of the Annual Statistics and a new Managing Editor of the Annual Statistics position. Beth Layton from the Northeast Ohio Medical University will become Committee Chair and Editor and Steve Squires will become Managing Editor. Gary will continue as Co-Chair with Beth and they will work closely with Steve during the transition period leading up to the fall 2012 annual meeting. Gary will also continue as an advisor to Beth and Steve through the completion of the editing and dissemination of the results of the 35th Annual Statistics surveys in spring 2013. The Annual Statistics Web Portal will remain at the University at Buffalo Center for Computational Research.

<u>Committee Membership</u>:

Completed her service after the 33rd Edition surveys were edited—
        Susan Kendall, Ph.D. (2011)
Continuing their service on the Committee—
        Gary Byrd, Co-chair and Editor (2012)
        Terry Henner (2012)
        Jeanette Ryan (2012)
        Andrew White (2012)
        Pam Bradigan (2013)
        Cecilia Botero (2013)
        Kate Carpenter (2013)
        David King (2013)
        Joanne Muellenbach (2014)
        Beth Layton, Co-chair, Chair and Editor designate (2015)
        Steve Squires, Managing Editor (2015)
Joined the Committee after the 2011 Annual Meeting in Denver—
        Karen Cole (2014)
        Mary Piorun (2014)
        Rod McNeil (2014)

Respectfully submitted,

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Director, Health Sciences Library
University at Buffalo (SUNY)