

Assessment and Statistics Committee 2012 Annual Report

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; the completion of additional enhancements to the Annual Statistics Web Portal; and the transition of committee leadership to two roles, Committee chair and Editor of the Annual Statistics. The Committee met twice during the year: for a full day on Saturday, May 19 during the Medical Library Association Meeting, and for an hour and a half on Sunday morning, November 3 at the AAMC conference.

This report provides a summary of the Committee's activities and accomplishments in each of the following areas: 1) the completion of the 34th Edition Annual Statistics (FY10/11) surveys; 2) elimination of e-resources licensing and use statistics questions, 3) the opening of the 35th Edition surveys with minor revisions to the core survey questions; 4) further enhancements to the Web Portal tools and capabilities completed and projected for completion this year; and 5) the leadership transition for the Committee and Editorship of the Annual Statistics.

The 34th Edition Annual Statistics surveys: The fall 2011 surveys for fiscal year 2010-2011 were the two core Annual Statistics and Salary surveys. In addition to eliminating the e-resources and licensing use statistics questions (see below), the surveys had only the following minor changes:

- The Annual Statistics survey asked for subtotals of the number of professional librarian staff (Q 26a) and of the number of other library professional staff (Q 26b), and also subtotals of the number of in-person education sessions (Q 44a) and of "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.

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 print version of the *Annual Statistics* was completed and distributed in late May. 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, expenditures for staff development and for capital expenditures, special source expenditures from grants and contracts, and usage of online tutorials. Although staffing

levels continued the downward trend from previous years, the average number of professionals increased from 13.3 to 14.2. These data also showed significant decreases from previous years in: other-than-personnel-and-collections from the sales of library services, paraprofessional/support & clerical FTE, circulation, reference transactions, and website visitor sessions.

The Elimination of E-Resources Licensing and Use Statistics Questions: Based on a Committee review of 2010 33th 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 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.

The 35th Edition Annual Statistics Surveys: The 35th edition of the Annual Survey was revised during the summer of 2012 and opened to the membership for data entry in September. Several changes were made to the Education Services questions in addition to minor corrections and additions to other parts of the survey. The 35th Edition of the Salary Survey was also opened in September. It contained no substantial revisions.

Enhancements to the Annual Statistics Web Portal: The following enhancements to the Web Portal tools and capabilities have been completed since the 2011 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.
- 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.
- Automate the formatting of the survey results Excel spreadsheets to speed up the final editing for the print version of the Annual Statistics
- Add a "Forgot Password?" that allows authorized users to update a forgotten password directly on the Portal website

The following are additional enhancements that have been proposed, for which the Committee will set priorities for completion in 2013:

- 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
- 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 the Committee and the AAHSL Board of Directors approved a plan for a new Committee structure with two key leadership positions: the Committee 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 was named Committee Chair and Editor and Steve Squires was named 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. In addition, in July 2012, in order to prepare for the task of taking on the statistics, Beth and Steve spent two half days with Gary in Buffalo reviewing policies and processes and meeting with Steve Gallo at the University at Buffalo Center for Computational Research. 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.

Gary became Co-chair of the committee with James Shedlock in 2004. Under Gary's leadership the statistics portal was moved to the University at Buffalo Center for Computational Research. Gary's tenure has seen development and enhancement of the statistic Portal and increases in the number of libraries submitting data and doing so earlier, generally before budget time. The committee will build on this foundation and plans on focusing on the assessment part of the committee's title in future years.

Committee Membership:

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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