Assessment and Statistics Committee
2010 Annual Report

This has been another busy and productive year for our Committee, with the completion of revisions to the core Annual Statistics survey, the Descriptive Statistics survey, the Services & Resources Profile survey and the development of a new Portal survey tool and procedures for correcting erroneous data from past surveys. The Committee met once this past year at the Association annual meeting in conjunction with the AAMC meeting in Boston in November 2009. This report describes Committee activities in each of the following areas: 1) The completion of the 32nd Edition Annual Statistics surveys; 2) The revisions to the 33rd Edition *Annual Statistics* surveys; 3) The status of the current 33rd Edition Annual Statistics surveys; 4) The enhancements to the Web Portal tools and capabilities completed and projected for completion this year; 5) The status of liaison activities with the Association of Research Libraries and MLA; and 6) Other topics scheduled for discussion at the upcoming November Committee meeting in Boston.

The 32nd Edition *Annual Statistics* Surveys: The surveys were again opened for data input from the beginning of September through mid November. The final results included 125 libraries that completed the general Annual Statistics Survey and 115 libraries that completed the salary survey. The print version of the survey results (including a composite profile of the mean and median question values from the responding libraries, a salary regression summary, five year trends for core measures, and the tables with data for all questions from responding libraries) was published early in 2010. The Composite Health Sciences Library data from these surveys showed significant **increases** from previous years in: collections expenditures, and the total number of accessible (mostly electronic) serial titles and databases, and expenditures funded by revenues from primary teaching hospital(s). These data showed significant **decreases** from previous years in: other than personnel and collections library recurring expenditures, revenues from the sales of library services, traditional print resources circulation, page views of the library's website, and interlibrary loan lending requests filled.

Revisions to the 33rd Edition *Annual Statistics* Surveys: In addition to the regular Annual Statistics and Salary surveys, the Committee decided to include revised versions of two additional surveys that were last completed in 2007: the Descriptive Statistics survey and the Services & Resources Profile survey. The Salary survey is identical to past years, but we made a few changes to the Annual Statistics survey in response to concerns raised from the 32nd Edition survey:

1) Additional instructions were added to help Regional Medical Libraries in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine provide consistent information about their budgets and staffing.
2) Because of the very inconsistent responses received from the use of electronic resources questions in last year's survey, these were simplified and revised to focus on use statistics for a core group of specific electronic monograph titles (Q 37), a core group of specific electronic journal titles (Q 38), and a core group of specific databases (Q 39). These changes should make reporting these statistics much easier, and they should provide much more consistent and usefully comparable data.
3) An additional question was added to report the number of academic courses for which the library managed electronic reserve materials (Q 40). This new question will provide a point of

comparative reference for the use data libraries report for electronic reserve materials in Q 41, and will make clearer which libraries do manage e-reserve systems.

4) The remaining revisions were to the questions reporting on the education services provided by academic health sciences libraries. Because we will also be repeating the Descriptive Statistics survey (last conducted in fall 2007 with the 30th Edition Annual Statistics), we carefully reviewed those questions and moved two questions relating to education services from that survey to this Annual Statistics survey:

- The number of complete courses (offered without academic credit), but within the academic programs supported by the library) taught by library staff (Q 48), and
- The number of complete, for-credit courses within the academic programs supported by the library that are taught by library staff (Q 49).

The Descriptive Statistics survey was also extensively revised from the 2007 version to clarify the wording, instructions and number order for many (17) questions, and to eliminate several questions that were no longer relevant:

- Q 11 (Total number of primary teaching hospital staff supported)
- Q 12 (Total number of affiliated secondary users)
- Q 24 (Specific library services provided for affiliated hospitals)
- Q 25 (Number of library courses, whether taught for or without credit & offered as library-sponsored or curriculum-based. This question was moved to Qs 48 & 49 in the 33rd Edition Annual Statistics survey.)

Finally, the Services & Resources Profile survey was also extensively revised to add additional services and resources and to eliminate those which are no longer available or relevant

The Current 33rd Edition *Annual Statistics* Surveys: Detailed instructions and background information about the survey changes were distributed to all AAHSL members via the AAHSL listserv in July. All four surveys were opened for data input on September 1 and will remain open until the end of October (unless, based on the responses, we agree an extension is needed). As of the writing of this report (October 17), 10 Annual Statistics surveys, 25 Salary surveys, 6 Descriptive Statistics surveys, and 13 Services & Resources Profile surveys have been submitted. All twelve current members of the Committee are serving as editors this year.

Before the surveys were opened in September Committee chair Gary Byrd and AAHSL President Connie Poole confirmed a final policy for providing libraries that serve schools of medicine, but that are not members of AAHSL with limited access to the Annual Statistics Web Portal for completing the annual surveys, if they wish to participate. For 2010, these libraries will maintain their current accounts during the period when the surveys are open, but when the surveys are closed these accounts will be terminated until a new class of Portal libraries is established for these libraries with access limited to only the open surveys each year and to the individual library's past survey data.

Enhancements to the Web Portal Survey and Data Analysis Tools: Steve Gallo, our software engineer and database architect at the University at Buffalo Center for Computational Research (CCR) has been

working from a prioritized list of programming projects established by the Committee. So far Mr. Gallo has completed all of the following Web Portal enhancements this year:

- He created a set of Portal tools that will make it possible to re-open a completed survey from a previous year for one library at a time and then to correct data for specific questions and also highlight and annotate those changes in the Portal.
- He removed the text box from auto-summation survey questions so that those completing the surveys will not get the impression that they can enter data for these questions that simply provide a sum total of two or more previous questions.
- He reprogrammed the matrix questions survey tool so that notes can be positioned at the end of matrix rows or at the bottom of matrix columns.

The following additional enhancements have been budgeted for completion this year:

- Programming a mechanism to make it possible to easily print a library's completed Salary Survey matrix as well as the matrix questions in the other surveys.
- Creating additional classes of libraries, including libraries that are not members of AAHSL but who participate in the Annual Statistics surveys, that will limit their access to the Portal tools and surveys.
- Enhance the peer-library comparison tool to make it possible to 1) combine data from more than one survey and 2) build or select a group of peer libraries based on their similar (exact or within a range) responses to one or more questions in one or more surveys.
- Provide additional links from within the Portal to other Websites with statistical tools and resources relevant to users of the AAHSL Annual Statistics.
- Make it possible to generate special reports from the surveys for regional or local subgroups of libraries.
- Programming more integrated access to the Annual Statistics Portal from within the password protected area of the AAHSL (Memberclicks) Website.

If any time remains in this year's budget for Mr. Gallo's time at the end of 2010, we will work to enter one additional year of retrospective data (for the 27th Edition, 2003-04) into the Web Portal.

Liaison Activities with ARL and MLA: No additional activities to report this year

Additional Topics for Discussion at the Committee meeting on November 5:

In addition to reviewing the current status and future goals for all the activities included above in this report, the following will be additional topics of discussion at our all-day meeting in Washington, DC on November 5:

- Completing a recommendation for policies and procedures to grant access to Annuals Statistics data for research purposes
- Setting priorities for further enhancements to the Annual Statistics Web Portal survey and data analysis tools

- Developing a transition plan for future leadership of the Assessment & Statistics Committee and editing the Annual Statistics surveys.

Committee membership:

Completed his service—
      Ellis Beteck (changed job responsibilities in 2010)
Completing their service with the editing of the 33rd Edition surveys—
      Mary Blackwelder (2010)
      Diana Cunningham (2010)
      Christine Frank (2010)
      Nancy Woelfl (2010)
Continuing their service on the Committee—
      Gary Byrd (2012)
      Susan Kendall (2011)
      Beth Layton (2011)
      Joanne Muellenbach (2011)
      Steve Squires (2012)
      Terry Henner (2012)
      Jeanette Ryan (2012)
      Andrew White (2012)
Joining the Committee after the 2010 Annual Meeting in Washington—
      Pam Bradigan (2013)
      Cecilia Botero (2013)
      Kate Carpenter (2013)
      David King (2013)

Respectfully submitted,

Gary D. Byrd, Ph.D.
University at Buffalo