The members of the Economic Status of Law Librarians Committee during 2014-2015 were Karen Skinner, Chair; Cathleen Cochran, Vice Chair; Steven P. Anderson, Board Liaison; Cara Schillinger, Staff Liaison; Daniel Blackaby; Diana J. Koppang; Ashley Brooks Moye; Stacy F. Posillico; Elizabeth M.C. Scheibel; and Kathleen M. Wilko.

The Committee spent the year focused on the Biennial Salary Survey that was distributed in July 2015. The Committee’s primary work was to review the job titles and descriptions used in the survey. Sub-committees were formed for each law library type and in consultation with several Special Interest Sections, titles and descriptions were updated for 2015. The Economic Status Committee would like to thank the following SISs for comments on and improvements to the Salary Survey job titles and descriptions: Academic Law Libraries SIS, Government Law Libraries SIS, and the Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals SIS.

The Committee also consulted with the Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals SIS to determine if corporate law librarian salaries should be separated from those of law firm librarians in the survey results. It was decided that there are too few corporate librarians within the membership to make this feasible. The fact that the Salary Survey allows directors to enter salary information for multiple locations was highlighted in the survey invitation letter better than in previous survey years. AALL membership stated a desire to see the salary data presented in a spreadsheet format that would allow data to be sorted or filtered. This was requested by the Committee. AALL is working on a salary calculator that would allow this and the Committee submitted initial data attributes it thought would be most useful. Furthermore, there was feedback from the membership that retaining salary data from the previous survey would ease the survey completion process. It was decided that cost and confidentiality issues prevent that at this time.

There are a number of issues that will need to be considered for possible future improvements to the Salary Survey. Those issues include the timing of the survey data collection period, improvements to peer and geographic groupings, the usefulness of having one survey for all law library types, and the overall marketing of the survey. Additionally, the committee will look for ways to improve the forthcoming salary calculator with additional data attributes.

Submitted by,

Karen Skinner
Committee Chair, 2014-2015