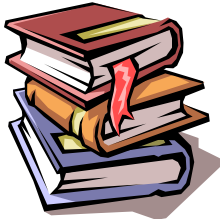


Salaries of Academic Librarians in the West & Southwest Region

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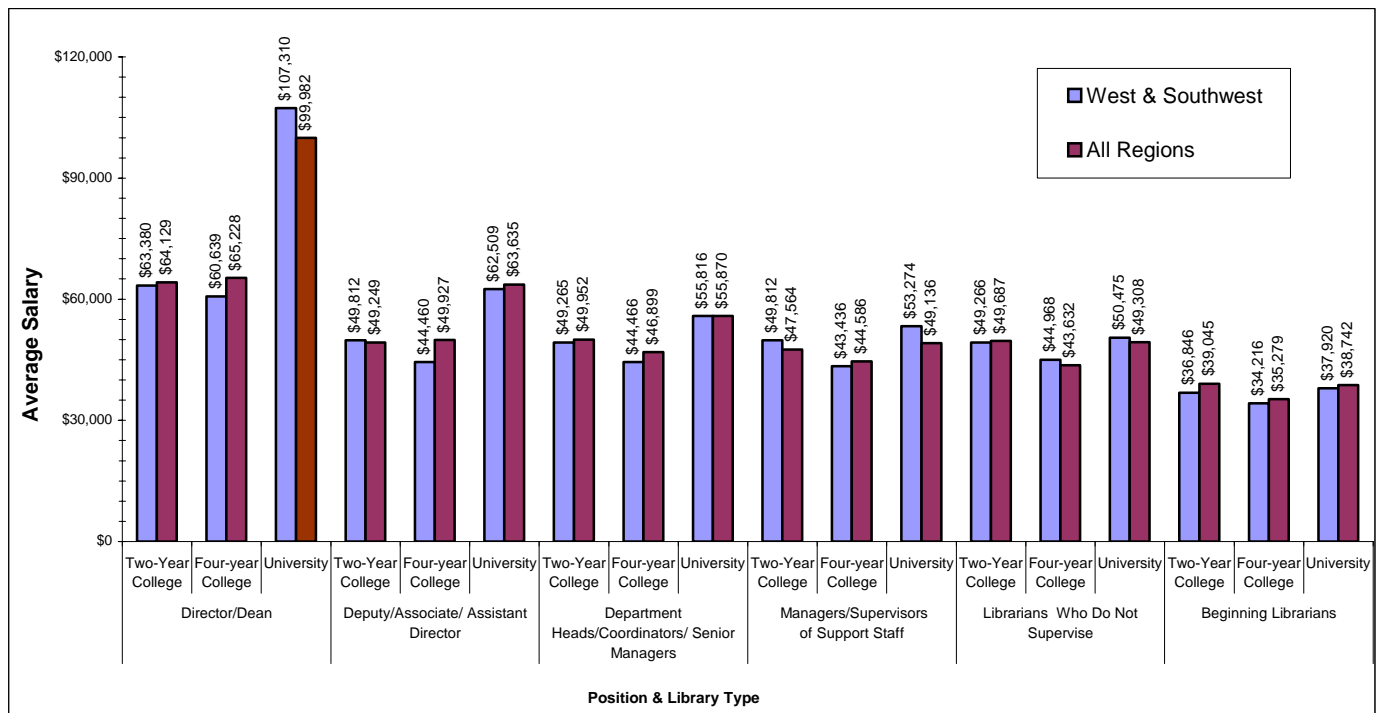
August 22, 2006

By Jennifer French



The salaries of academic librarians, like many in the library field, are affected by their position, the type of library they are working in, and where their library is located. The ALA Survey of Librarian Salaries 2005 reports average salaries for each of these influencing factors.

Chart 1. West & Southwest Region Compared to All Regions



Most average salaries for the West and Southwest region, which includes Colorado, were lower than the national averages (see Chart 1). Librarians at four-year colleges consistently earned salaries lower than the national average at every position with the exception of Librarians Who Do Not Supervise. The position to have the greatest salary difference between the regional and the national averages was Deputy/Associate/Assistant Director at a four-year college. They earned an average of \$44,460 in the region and \$49,927 nationally; a difference of \$5,467.

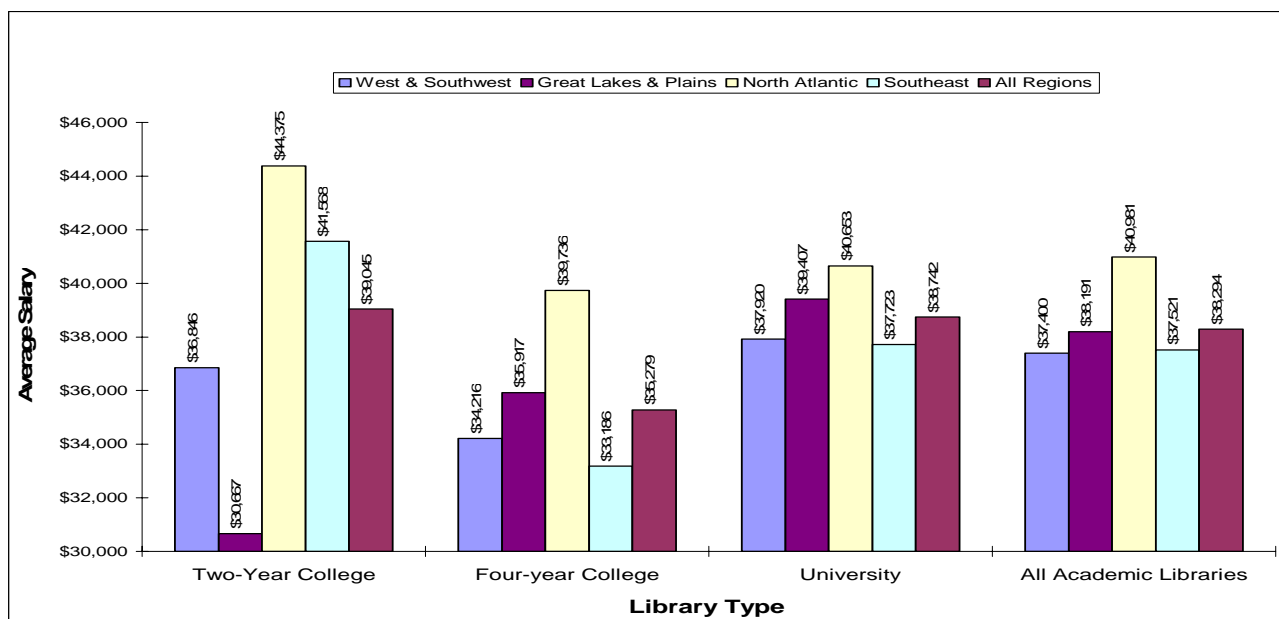
This report examines the salaries of academic librarians in the West & Southwest region according to the results of the ALA Survey of Librarian Salaries 2005. The results were reported by type of position, library type, and region of the U.S. The six position titles are Director/Dean, Deputy/Associate/Assistant Director, Department Heads/Coordinators/Senior Managers, Managers/Supervisors of Support Staff, Librarians Who Do Not Supervise, and Beginning Librarians. The report uses four library types; Two-Year College, Four-Year College, University, and All Academic. The results were also reported for the nation as a whole (All Regions) and narrowed into four geographic regions; Great Lakes & Plains, North Atlantic, Southeast, and West & Southwest. The West & Southwest region includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Predictably, Beginning Librarians in the West and Southwest averaged lower salaries than those in other librarian positions in the region. Across all academic libraries, Beginning Librarians in the West and Southwest earned the lowest average salaries compared to other regions. In fact, they earned a lower average salary than the national (i.e., all regions) average for each type of library. For instance, Beginning Librarians earned approximately \$2,200 less than the national all-regions average for a two-year college (See Chart 2).

A Beginning Librarian at a four-year college in the region earned an average salary that was \$2,630 to \$3,704 less than those in the same position at different library types. They earned almost 8 percent less than Beginning Librarians at two-year colleges in the region.

Among the regions, Beginning Librarians in the West and Southwest earned the second lowest average salary at each library type. The average salary of Beginning Librarians for all academic libraries (the average salary of a position for all library types) was the lowest in the West and Southwest region compared to the other regions and the national average.

Chart 2. Beginning Librarians



The data indicates that a majority of academic librarians in the West and Southwest received annual salaries lower than the national average. Most affected were librarians at four-year colleges who received below national average salaries for 6 of the 7 positions. Within the region, at four-year colleges, Beginning Librarians earned salaries 7 to 11 percent less than their peers at other library types.

Sources: Grady, J. & Davis, D. (2005). ALA Survey of Librarian Salaries. American Library Association – Allied Professional Association.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Author: Jennifer French, University of Denver Research Fellow
 Library Research Service • 201 East Colfax Avenue, Suite 309 • Denver, Colorado 80203-1799
 Phone 303.866.6900 • E-mail: lrs@lrs.org • Web site: www.LRS.org
 Layout and production by Debra Gettings • Phone: 303.866.6906 • E-mail: gettings_d@cde.state.co.us

