Making a difference: Past SALIS conferences from 1978 to present

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SALIS held its first conference in Houston, Texas in 1978. As an encore to the proceedings of the 2014 conference hosted by the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies (CAS) in New Brunswick, NJ in 2014, this paper reviews briefly the chronology of the SALIS conferences, followed by a complete list of the events. Each entry includes the date and place of the conference, the host, and the theme of the conference, if applicable.

One of the oldest conference proceedings related to alcoholism on the shelves at the CAS Library is the Proceedings of the 8th International Congress Against Alcoholism dated 1901 in German, which, bound in the bright red color of the CAS McCarthy Collection, contains photocopied pages of stenogram transcripts of presentations as well as comments that would go along with the talks. Later editions feature lists of previous conferences to date on the back cover. This gave us the idea to collect all available information about past SALIS conferences to add value to the Substance Abuse Library and Information Studies eProceedings.

Conference data related to events from 1998 to present were mostly available on the SALIS web site, while information related to events prior to 1998 were collected from SALIS News and the CAS Archives, including the missing fields. The records below are organized in reverse chronological order, and include the conference sequence, the exact dates and locations, the hosts, and the theme of the conference, if applicable.

With a detailed and accurate list of these events, the main goal is to showcase the wealth of knowledge accumulated during these years, as the reflected by the conference titles in red. The topics, in relation to the year of the conference also indicate how quick SALIS members were to absorb what was
going on around them in the world of information science and technology, as well as in the field of addiction studies. Not only did SALIS respond to the challenges, but we have been proactive by embracing change over time.

Networking, which seems to be a new buzzword in the 21\textsuperscript{st} century, shows up as conference theme as early as in 1981 at the conference held in Berkeley, CA. SALIS librarians, often working alone, have always understood the importance of being connected with like-minded peers. Many of them, feeling like working in a vacuum, might have found instant support and answers to their questions in the organization. This theme returns several times, for example in 1984 in Chicago, or under a variety of other related names, such as knowledge sharing in 2002 in Washington, DC and creating partnerships in 2012 In Reno, NV. Joint conferences, such as the LISA/SALIS joint conference in 1983 (Toronto, ON), SALIS/LISA/DRACON conference in 1985 (New Brunswick, NJ), or later in 2006, the SALIS/Elisad conference in Boston proves excellent relationship and ventures to international realms.

Notable is the topic of the 4\textsuperscript{th} conference, What Impact – Technology? in 1982, when no one yet foreshadowed how changing technology would later reshape our entire world. Information technology and innovation are recurring topics in 1997 (Little Rock, AR), 2005 (Chicago, IL), 2010 (New York, NY), and 2011 (Kansas City, MO). On a related note, more than ten conferences focused on changes, challenges, and the future, starting as early as 1986 in Hanover, NH already Approaching the 21\textsuperscript{st} Century. The challenges of the upcoming new century seem to continue to enrich SALIS in 1997 (Little Rock, AR) with a communication/technology topic and in New York City with a theme AOD inY2K and Beyond in 2000. Other conferences around the turn of the century were also looking for solutions to the challenges of the new demands while Breaking Away: Changing the Way We Work (1999, Bloomington, IN) and exploring New Frontiers in Alcohol and Drug Information (2001, Anchorage, AK). Assuming a more assertive role in these changes seem to be the cohesive force at later conferences, with SALIS librarians Making Waves for Change (2004, Berkeley, CA), Stepping into the Future (2008, Seattle, WA), Setting Sail (2009, Halifax, Nova Scotia), and Changing the Landscape (2013, Berkeley, CA).

These last ones are reiterations of the most popular topic of SALIS conferences, namely, the role of libraries and librarians in the dissemination of appropriate resources to broad audiences. Communities and what librarians can do to empower them were the focus in 1988 (Seattle, WA), 1989 (Minneapolis, MN), 1992 (Nashville, TN), 1993 (San Francisco, CA), 1995 (Boston, MA), and 2005 (Chicago, IL). SALIS librarians and information specialists examined their roles From Research to Practice (1990, Toronto, ON), provided a SALIS perspective on Alcohol and Drug Information Policy (1991, Bethesda, MD), and claimed Knowledge is Power (1998, Los Angeles, CA).


In the spirit of the 2014 SALIS Conference theme, Looking forward, looking back, the authors invite SALIS members and interested readers to reflect on data from the past, so that we can plan better for the future.
# List of SALIS Conferences (1978-2014)

## 36th Annual Conference
April 29-May 2, 2014
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey
*Looking Forward, Looking Back: Reflections on the Past and Planning for the Future*

## 35th Annual Conference
April 30-May 3, 2013
Institute for Scientific Analysis; Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation; and Silver Gate Group, Berkeley, California
*Progressive Bridges: Changing the Landscape*

## 34th Annual Conference
May 22-25, 2012
University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada
*Stepping Out of Our Silos: Creating Partnerships, Building Capacity, Delivering Information*

## 33rd Annual Conference
May 3-6, 2011
Addiction Technology Transfer Centers
Kansas City, Missouri
*Innovation on the ATOD Frontier: Now is the Time*

## 32nd Annual Conference
April 27-30, 2010
Columbia University
New York City, New York
*ATOD Policy & Information Technology in an Era of Change*

## 31st Annual Conference
May 5-8, 2009
Nova Scotia Department of Health
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

## 30th Annual Conference
May 6-9, 2008
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington
*SALIS @ Thirty ~ Stepping Into the Future*

## 29th Annual Conference
May 1-2, 2007
University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada
*Strategic Planning Meeting, SALIS Executive Board*

## 28th Annual SALIS & 18th Annual Elisad Conference
September 26-30, 2006
Join Together; US Dept. of Education’s Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention
Newton, Massachusetts
*Information without Borders*

## 27th Annual Conference
May 3-7, 2005
Prevention First
Chicago, Illinois
*Creative Connections: Linking Research to Practice with Information Technology*

## 26th Annual Conference
April 20-24, 2004
Alcohol Research Group
Berkeley, California
*Making Waves For Change*

## 25th Annual Conference
April 22-26, 2003
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
*Beyond Borders: 25 Years of*

## 24th Annual Conference
April 16-20, 2002
National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information
Washington, D.C.
*Capitalize on the Value of Knowledge Sharing*

## 23rd Annual Conference
May 4 - 7, 2001
Akeela, Inc
Anchorage, Alaska
*New Frontiers in Alcohol and Drug Information*

## 22nd Annual Conference
May 3 - 6, 2000
Soros Foundation Library and Columbia University
New York, New York
*AOD in Y2K and Beyond: Back to the Future of Alcohol and Other Drugs*

## 21st Annual Conference
April 21 - 24, 1999
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana
*Breaking Away: Changing the Way We Work*

## 20th Anniversary Conference
August 14 - 17, 1998
University of California, UCLA
Los Angeles, California
*Knowledge is Power: Energizing Information for Application*

## 19th Annual Conference
October 19-22, 1997
University of Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas
18th Annual Conference
November 6-9, 1996
Canadian Community Service Association, CCSA
Vancouver, British Columbia
The Social and Political Aspects of Information

17th Annual Conference
November 12-15, 1995
Massachusetts Prevention Center
Boston, Massachusetts
Toward 2000: Diverse Resource for Healthy Communities

16th Annual Conference
October 15-19, 1994
Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse
Chicago, Illinois
The Information Age: Meeting the Challenge

15th Annual Conference
October 3-6, 1993
Prevention Research Center
San Francisco, California
Information in Action: Promoting Health

14th Annual Conference
November 15-18, 1992
Tennessee Alcohol and Drug Association Statewide Clearinghouse
Nashville, Tennessee
SALIS Information Gatekeepers: Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond

13th Annual Conference
September 29-October 2, 1991
Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, OSAP
Bethesda, MD
Alcohol and Other Drug Information Policy: A SALIS Perspective

12th Annual Conference
October 14-17, 1990
Addiction Research Foundation
Toronto, ON, Canada
From Research to Practice: the Role of Information Specialists

11th Annual Conference
October 3-November 2, 1989
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
Empowering Your Communities – Libraries as Prevention Advocates

10th Annual Conference
October 18-20, 1988
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
High Risk Groups: Alcohol and Other Drug Information Resources

9th Annual Conference
November 2-6, 1987
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, AADAC
Edmonton, Canada
The Dissemination of Information Between Nations: A Support and Link to Activities in the Alcohol and Drug Field

8th Annual Conference
October 28-31, 1986
Project Cork Resource Center – Dartmouth Medical School
Hanover, NH
Information Services Approaching the 21st Century

7th Annual Conference
SALIS/LISA/DRA vON
November 6-8, 1985
Rutgers University Center for Continuing Education
New Brunswick, NJ

6th Annual Conference
October 17-10, 1984
Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse
Chicago, Illinois
Networking Is Coming Together

5th Annual Conference
LISA/SALIS Joint Conference
October 18-21, 1983
Addiction Research Foundation
Toronto, ON, Canada
Managing Information Function

4th Annual Conference
April 5-7, 1982
Silver Springs, MD
What Impact – Technology?

3rd Annual Conference
March 11-13, 1981
Social Research Group
Berkeley, CA
Networking

2nd Annual Conference
February 18-19, 1980
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX

1st Conference
October 23-24, 1978
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX