

# The SALIS collection unveiled: Building an ATOD digital archive

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*The SALIS Digitization Project, or Digs, as it is called by the SALIS Advocacy Committee project members is an ongoing activity to create an ATOD digital archive of books and government documents, in partnership with the San Francisco based Internet Archive. With the loss of over 30 of the specialized ATOD libraries over the last decade, and concomitantly the loss of SALIS members, this project was viewed as one way to preserve the literature of the field, as well as making it more accessible.*

## Keywords

Digitization, Preservation, Alcohol history

## The project's history

**By Andrea Mitchell**

In 2012, an editorial written by the members of the Advocacy Committee, entitled *Collective Amnesia*, sought to inform the field of the devastating loss of many of the

specialized ATOD libraries and databases which had developed over decades along with the field. (Mitchell et. al, 2012). Creating digital archives was one of the recommendations of the group, and one which SALIS members could do with an organized group effort. In 2013, attendees of the SALIS conference were taken on tour of the Internet Archive. All persons were asked

to bring one book each for digitization so that we could have an official start to the envisioned SALIS Archive. Brewster Kahle, Director of the Internet Archive, led the tour and informed the group of what the IA had been doing to put various library collections into digital format and make them accessible via their website. His charisma and the work that the Archive had already accomplished convinced many in the group to push this project forward.

Digs Phase 1 (2011-2014) included presentations about the project at SALIS conferences; articles in *SALIS News* to further inform members of the project and the need for donated books; creating a special database to keep records of books/docs donated, and to provide a mechanism to prevent duplication of donations; raising seed monies to pay for digitization; documenting members donations in the database; receiving and submitting materials to the Archive; responding to NIAAA solicitation for what to do with their library; receiving notification that SALIS had been selected to receive the NIAAA books library; and selecting materials from the NIAAA library's 237 page book list.

Unfortunately, in the fall of 2013, the Internet Archive had a fire in their scanning room, and among the materials which were consumed in the fire was a box of SALIS donations. Since then some of those titles have been received again and it is expected that all will be replaced as the project continues.

Digs Phase 2 will consist of making the final selections from the NIAAA library (which has now been completed); seeking more involvement from SALIS members to send physical copies or upload digital copies; and continuing to look for more funding, possibly through crowd sourcing and/or grant possibilities.

[The SALIS Collection: Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs](#) is easily found at the archive.org site, or by searching Google, and is available to anyone anywhere in the world to browse or borrow for up to two weeks.

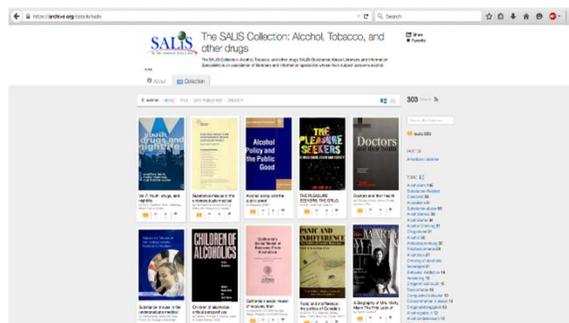


Figure 1

As of May 2015 there were over 300 books, with 532 views of the materials thus far. However, by June 30<sup>th</sup> views had increased to 1,459, presumably due to SALIS 2015 conference attendees being made aware of the collection. Material is searchable via creator (author), title, date and subject. Subjects are Library of Congress subject headings and have been assigned via records from World Cat.

The internet Archive offers hundreds of collections, and some contain other ATOD material which may be of interest to SALIS members. The video section "Feature Films" offers several of the classic drug and alcohol films, such as *Reefer Madness* and *Ten Nights in a Bar Room*; UCSF Tobacco Industry Videos contains numerous cigarette commercials, as well as anti-smoking spots. See also Chris Goodair's presentation for UK ATOD documents found at the Wellcome Library, another collection in the Archive.

## The SALIS Database: Tracking books in the digitization pipeline

*By Nancy Sutherland*

To help SALIS keep track of books submitted for digitization in The SALIS Collection, a simple web-based database is available in which members can enter a simple record for each book submitted. The database is for our convenience and to help make the best use of scarce resources for this project.

The aim is to have a manageable, orderly process that's not too taxing for participants (including SALIS Home). Using the SALIS database to manage the books coming from many sources will allow members (whether they're contributing books or not) to:

- ✓ Know what titles are in the DIGs "pipeline;"
- ✓ Avoid wasteful duplication of book sent for digitization;
- ✓ Monitor progress from Selection to Collection;
- ✓ Recommend books that should be added to the collection;
- ✓ Keep a record of individual member's contributions, including contributions from donors. This information is useful when thanking donors who contribute books or dollars for the SALIS Collection.

The SALIS book database is built with Inmagic DBTextworks, and is housed on a server at the University of Washington Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute. The format and function of the database is familiar to SALIS members, because it's similar to what is used for membership renewals, conference registration, and abstract submissions for conference presentations. A quick link allows users to view all books entered by SALIS members or SALIS Home in the database to check on their status. The entry form has 3 sections: Bibliographic Data, Contributor Information, and Processing Status. This book database is intended for the use of SALIS members only, and is not available to the public.

**Enter a Book for the SALIS Digitization Project**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Title</b> Pathways from Heroin Addiction - Recovery Without Treatment</p> <p><b>Author</b> Biemacki, Patrick<br/><small>e.g. Miller WS, Author; S. Orl, organization, i.e. White House Office of National Drug Control Policy</small></p> <p><b>Year</b> 1988</p> <p><b>Publisher</b> Temple University Press<br/><small>Author name, do not include city, state</small></p> <p><b>Doc. Type</b> Book<br/><small>Other: Government, Book, Report, Other</small></p> <p><b>Your Name</b> Nancy Sutherland</p> <p><b>Your Email</b> nsutherland@ada.iu.edu</p> <p><b>Your Org</b> Alcohol &amp; Drug Abuse Institute / Univ. of Washington</p> <p><b>Donated by</b> Alan Marxist library</p> <p><b>Notes</b> Send to SALIS after conference 5/4/2015. Book is in OL but not as digital version.<br/><small>Any notes for classification</small></p> <p><b>Status</b> <input type="text" value=""/></p> <p><b>Date to IA</b> <input type="text" value=""/><br/><small>Use mm/yy/yyyy - Date item was taken to the Internet Archive</small></p> <p><b>IA URL</b> <input type="text" value=""/><br/><small>URL of the record in the Internet Archive/Open Library</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="button" value="Save Record"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/></p> | <p><b>FIRST:</b> Before entering a book, search for it in the SALIS Database to make sure it hasn't already been donated by another SALIS member.</p> <p><b>Only enter a book if you have a physical copy that you plan to send to SALIS to give to the SALIS Collection.</b></p> <p><b>Status field options:</b></p> <p><b>Sent to SALIS</b> - This book has been sent to SALIS for transfer to the Internet Archive.</p> <p><b>Taken to IA</b> - SALIS has delivered this book to Internet Archive for scanning.</p> <p><b>Scanned</b> - This book was scanned and is now in the Internet Archive SALIS Collection.</p> |
|---|---|

Figure 2. Sample record in SALIS DIGs Database

## SALIS DIGS – Further digging: Investigating partnerships and possibilities

By Sheila Lacroix

The diversity of SALIS membership offers a range in possibilities for developing The SALIS Collection hosted on the Internet Archive (IA). We have unique collections and may find we have local IA partners. At the visit to the Internet Archive organized for the 2013 SALIS Conference held in San Francisco, it was learned that the University of Toronto Libraries (UTL) has an Internet Archive scanning center on campus, housed in the main library. The former Chief Librarian at UTL, Carol Moore, was a strong supporter of the IA; UTL has scanned over 370,000 books over the years. One UTL collection is that from the Robarts Library.

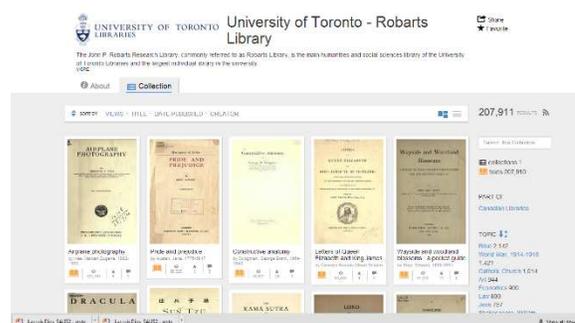


Figure 3

As CAMH is situated close by, it was decided a meeting was in order to discuss possibilities. In the CAMH library collection there is a complete set of former Addiction Research Foundation (ARF) monographs, most in duplicate, that should be added to the SALIS Collection. It would make sense to have these digitized locally. UTL digitizes primarily 'out of copyright' resources, so CAMH, of which ARF is a founding partner, would have to provide copyright clearance to have these digitized. Also, UTL will only digitize books held in its collection, so ARF resources will have to be identified in UTL collections for digitization. In spite of these limitations, it

does provide possibilities of saving some time and energy. In summary, exploring the possibility of local partnerships is encouraged and can be fruitful.

Now that we have the nucleus of a valuable collection, it is time to move on to the next phase and firm up a collection policy. The emphasis is still on books and major documents. Ephemeral literature will probably have to wait unless specific funding for a special collection can be arranged. Books and documents reflecting local, state, or provincial issues are welcome, as are resources of a national or international perspective. The collection is not limited to alcohol. This is an ATOD (alcohol tobacco and other drugs) collection.

Many SALIS libraries are experiencing downsizing and if a library does not have an archival function, often older editions are discarded. Members are encouraged to donate duplicates, books by well-known authors at their institutions, books rarely borrowed, or older editions of current books. Also, the DIGS team wants to know of any special collections as these should be flagged. Downsizing and weeding provides an excellent opportunity to preserve core resources in the ATOD field, making them available to all online through The SALIS Collection and thus offering a permanent home and a stable address.

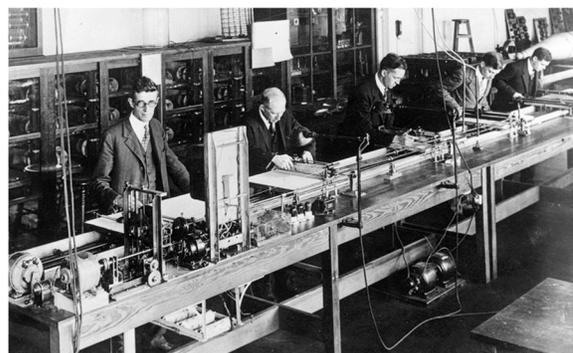
## **SALIS DIGS: European contribution**

*By Christine Goodair*

Europe and the UK have experienced similar problems relating to down-sizing and loss of the many specialist documentation centers covering drugs and alcohol. This had an impact upon European Association of Libraries and Information Services on Addictions (ELISAD), the European equivalent of SALIS, and in 2013 the remaining members of ELISAD made the decision to close the network and to merge with SALIS, recognizing that the two associations had worked very closely

together for many years, exchanging information and supporting one another's conferences and projects (SALIS DIGS being an example).

It is interesting to find that in a 1945 essay for *The Atlantic* entitled "As We May Think," (Bush, 1945) an American engineer named Vannevar Bush (*Figure 4*, left) proposed a system called the Memex (memory index), into which people would compress all manner of books and information. His vision was of a library of collective knowledge stored in a piece of machinery described in his essay as "a piece of furniture." This idea was clearly an early vision of the Internet Archive that we have today, and are contributing to.



*Figure 4 (Picture: Getty Images)*

From Europe and the UK there are many major libraries contributing to the Internet Archive. These include London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Library & Archives Service, Wellcome Library, University College London, National Central Library of Florence, and other European libraries.

Despite the amount of items covering a wide array of subjects from Europe and North America, the amount on addiction sciences was limited. SALIS DIGS has provided a way for key, seminal texts from the UK and Europe to be part of the collection. To this end, recommendations for items to be included in the SALIS collection were sought from both SALIS and ELISAD members and a master list produced. The master list was then checked

for duplicates and then the DIGS project group each looked at aspects of the list, with me, personally, recommending the key UK and European texts for inclusion in the first tranche of books for digitizing.

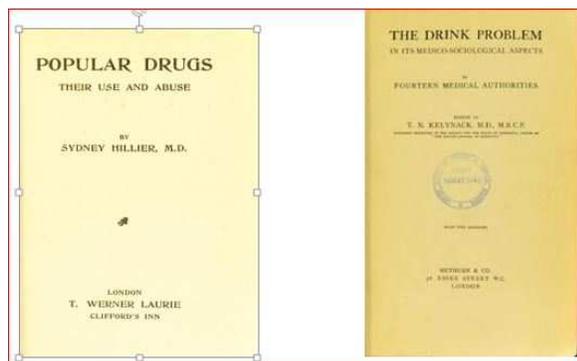


Figure 5

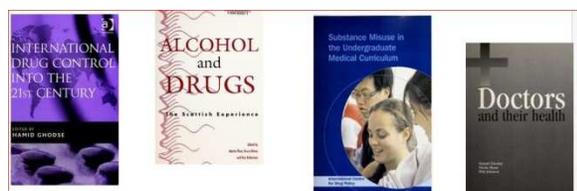


Figure 6

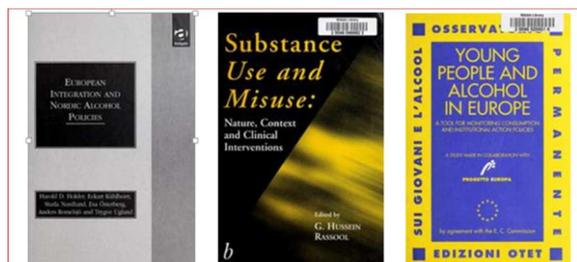


Figure 7

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