Creating a SALIS Legacy

Building an Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) Archive with Knowledge for All

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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. This report provides an update of the project including the status and projected growth of the collection, strategies for growth that include both fund raising for digitization and uploading existing digital documents, and the challenges and solutions for dealing with monitoring workflow and applying meta data. With the continuing closures of ATOD libraries and the loss of key databases and catalogs, this project provides a way to preserve the literature of the field, as well as making it more accessible.

Keywords

Digitization, Preservation, Alcohol History, Drug Abuse History, Substance Abuse

Introduction

The SALIS 2017 conference in Worcester, MA provided an opportunity to report on the status of the SALIS Collection (the Collection) in the Internet Archive (IA), strategies for growth of the Collection, and the challenges and proposed solutions. In addition, a workshop was given to demonstrate the interface and the process of how materials are acquired, tracked, scanned or uploaded, and tagged with meta data. The two sessions updated previous presentations provided by the Digs (SALIS Internet Archive Digitization) Project team (Mitchell et al., 2015) at the SALIS 2015 conference in San Diego, CA and at the 2016 SALIS Conference in Denver, CO (Mitchell et al. 2016).

The Collection depends on the SALIS membership to identify and locate resources for scanning and, for those with appropriate authorization, to upload digital documents, a means for adding government and research reports from our diverse membership.

Figure 1 The SALIS Collection:
http://archive.org/details/salis

Building the Collection: Status and Goals

Andrea Mitchell began with an overview and update. The formal partnership with the IA began in 2014 with a contract. Growth and

use of the collection increased dramatically over the past two years, from approximately 300 books and 532 views recorded in May 2015 to over 1300 documents (books and reports) and more than 52,000 views recorded in May 2017.
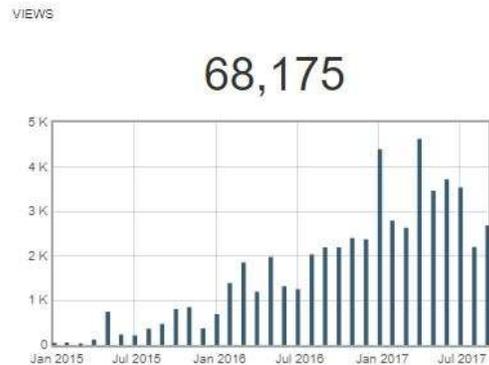

Figure 2. SALIS Collection Views over time

This growth could not have happened without the support of partners and dedicated SALIS members working behind the scenes. An early supporter, Joel Fort, (Joel and Maria Fort Foundation) funded the first mini proposal for seed money in 2013.

Following that, support came from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), when it donated its library and provided more seed funding to begin digitizing these holdings.

Five librarians worked diligently to select the most relevant titles from the NIAAA list of books to add to the SALIS Collection in the first phase. With additional support from Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, NIAAA, the SALIS Treasury, and individual SALIS members, nearly $20,000 was accumulated. With these monies and the volunteer work of ten dedicated SALIS members actively identifying and uploading digital resources and editing records, the Collection has witnessed a healthy growth.

Mitchell presented the analogy of the Collection as being like a forest with trees

representing libraries such as those at the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI), the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), and NIAAA, the leaves of the trees represent the potential resources for building the collection, book by book. A goal of 1800 books by year end was set, how will this be accomplished?

Building Blocks

Books are shipped to the most convenient IA scanning center, where the content is scanned and metadata is added, provided by the contributing SALIS member, usually from the most suitable WorldCat record. A spreadsheet with the metadata for each book accompanies the shipment. The approximate cost to SALIS for each book to be scanned is $30. The first additions to the Collection were books scanned at the Internet Archive in San Francisco in 2015-2016.

Another growing source of the SALIS Collection holdings comes from grey literature and out-of-copyright books that members can scan and upload, or simply upload, if born digital or an electronic copy can be located. This is a great way to add grey literature such as government and research reports, current and historical, from various jurisdictions representing the diverse membership of SALIS. Barbara Weiner explained the process of uploading and provided examples. One example highlights the advantage of working in a center that published documents. She has been actively uploading *Research Updates* from Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation's Butler Center for Research. Another example she provided highlights other sources, such as copyright-free government reports accessible through the internet. Weiner stressed some important points: uploading not only adds to the Collection, but incurs no cost to SALIS, permission must be obtained for items in copyright, to be authorized to upload, one must have an Administrator Account, if one does not have an account, PDFs of documents can be forwarded to SALIS Home.

Fortunately, there are Digs Team members in various locations, including Belgium, France, the UK and the US actively uploading documents. Adding grey literature from a variety of sources and jurisdictions is a way of enhancing the collection and making it more valuable to the ATOD community.

Sheila Lacroix reported on the benefit of sharing resources already in other IA collections and the value of forming partnerships. Concerning sharing, it was discovered this year that resources already in the IA can be tagged as part of the SALIS Collection. This is something that IA staff must do, so it is the task of SALIS members to identify possibilities. Through sharing, the Collection now has a few turn-of-the-last-century books tagged from the Cornell University IA Collection that fit our collection policy. This includes the *Royal Commission on Opium* reports from Great Britain, a valuable historical resource.

Lacroix presented a case study of how partnerships can help to build the Collection. The Addiction Research Foundation (ARF) of Ontario was a founding partner of CAMH. It was a center of research in epidemiology, treatment, prevention, and education, and had a mandate to disseminate research-based knowledge and develop policy. As a result, it had an active publishing arm and many of its publications were collected by the University of Toronto (UofT) Libraries. As IA Canada is located at Uof T, Lacroix approached the librarian responsible for digitization and the result was a win-win solution. UofT, which has an aggressive, well-funded digitization project underway through IA Canada for its out-of-copyright holdings, agreed to digitize, and cover the cost, of its holdings published by ARF when copyright clearance was provided. Items are tagged as part of The SALIS Collection as well as UofT's Addiction Research Foundation (ARF) Special Collection. This has resulted in over 230 digitized books, all of the volumes of the periodical *Alcoholism Research / Alcoholism Research Treatment Education / Addictions* (1953 – 1977) as well as most of

the issues of *The Journal (ARF): Addiction News for Professionals* (1972 – 1998).

Challenges

Without doubt, the two main challenges are fundraising and dealing with the practical and time-consuming collection building activities required for a project of this magnitude. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce members to existing protocols and procedures required to manage workflow from beginning to end, ensuring some standardization and no costly duplication.

Monitoring: At the workshop, the Digs Project Database was demonstrated and discussed. Through this, the team can track every item selected and added to the Collection. Standardized bibliographic information as well as the ISBN, if available, must be added to the database for each item, and once added to the Collection, the IA URL is inserted. This database is accessible to SALIS members through the SALIS website.

Discovery: Having these resources in a single collection is an admiral goal, but like any library, in particular as it grows, search capacity is a necessity. Unfortunately, because metadata is used from various sources, there is no consistency in subject headings. As yet, a standard list of Subject Headings has not been selected or applied. There remains much work to be done in this area. In the short run, member contributors are encouraged to use the most appropriate WorldCat record to accompany the book when sent for scanning. Standards for author, title and series have been established, but not always used. The prospect of going in and adjusting records to ensure consistent field values is daunting, but will have to be considered some time in the future.

Scope: Thus far, given the NIAAA library donation, the collection is heavily weighted with alcohol books. However, the Project team plans to expand the Collection to include more resources on other drugs in the near future.

Fundraising and Promotion: These are related, as the more the ATOD community becomes familiar with the SALIS Collection, the easier it is to generate support for its growth. Goodair and Lacroix (2016) presented at the 2016 Society for the Study of Addiction's (SSA) annual conference held in York, UK. At the time of the SALIS 2017 conference, plans were underway to apply for a grant from SSA. Also, a fundraiser through a crowdfunding provider was under investigation. SALIS members have been charged with promoting the Collection at their institutions and through any relevant newsletters, presentations and social media channels they support.

The SALIS Legacy

Dedicated SALIS members continue to work on building the SALIS Collection with an ultimate goal of at least 10,000 items. This will be an important contribution towards preserving and making accessible the resources in our field. The impetus for this was the continuing closures of ATOD libraries and the loss of key databases and catalogs, essential for the preservation of the ATOD knowledge base, a diverse, multidisciplinary and complex literature. (Mitchell et al., 2012).

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