

Looking Back to Look Forward

Memories and Milestones of 36 Years

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Memories & Milestones

“I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past”

Thomas Jefferson



In the Beginning

1978 Houston Texas

- Jane Bemko-Librarian Career Teachers Program at Baylor and the TX Mental Health Reseach Inst.
- Funding from NIDA to host librarians from various AOD & related agencies to form a network
- “Substance Abuse” was the new term in the field and adopted by the group.

Mission Statement

SALIS is an association of those working in or interested in library & information services concerning AOD. It's mission is to serve as a network of communication, provide a forum for advancement of the field, act to promote common interests, and to stimulate professional developments of its members

First Projects

- Newsletter Vol 1 No 1, 1981
- Directory 1981 to list 71 AOD libraries, information centers including US Canada England, Netherlands, Australia, Mexico & New Zealand.
- Directory had five editions-1991, funded by CSAP, with nearly 200 libraries/info centers listed, and 500 ATOD organizations

**DIRECTORY
1991**

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**SUBSTANCE
ABUSE
LIBRARIANS &
INFORMATION
SPECIALISTS**

Other Orgs Similar in Purpose

- LISA Librarians & Information Specialists in Addictions (Canada) News about SALIS published in *GAMUT*
- ADDLIS Alcohol and Drug Dependence Libraries and Information Services. (Australia) Newsletter began in 1981.

The 1980's Beginning of Advocacy

- Letter sent to Director of NIAAA to ask why NIAAA DB is not available to public. Dec 1983
- SALIS members become part of advisory to National Clearinghouse on Alcohol Information 1984.
- Propose Thesaurus and DB be made public (1984)
- NIAAA sends rep to SALIS Conf. 1984

SALIS Continues Building Networks

- Invited to attend NCA National Forum 1987. SALIS hosts a “Get to know SALIS Librarians”
- Presentation on SALIS to Special Libraries Association. June 1987
- Head of WHO’s Substance Abuse Division is keynote speaker at 1987 SALIS Conf. Tells of the need for alcohol/drug information in developing countries and urges SALIS to produce a manual.

Grant's Keynote

- Twinning: matching a SALIS library with one in Developing Country
- Develop Manual on how to set up AOD info center
- Create a partnership with WHO concerning “Information Access and Advocacy”

Twinning or Sister Library

- Sister library in a developing country was initiated by several SALIS libraries.
- Materials were sent through a USPS program for very little expense.
- Both CAS and ARG participated with libraries in Thailand and India.

How To Start and Run an Alcohol and Other Drug Information Centre: A Guide



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration

In Cooperation With:



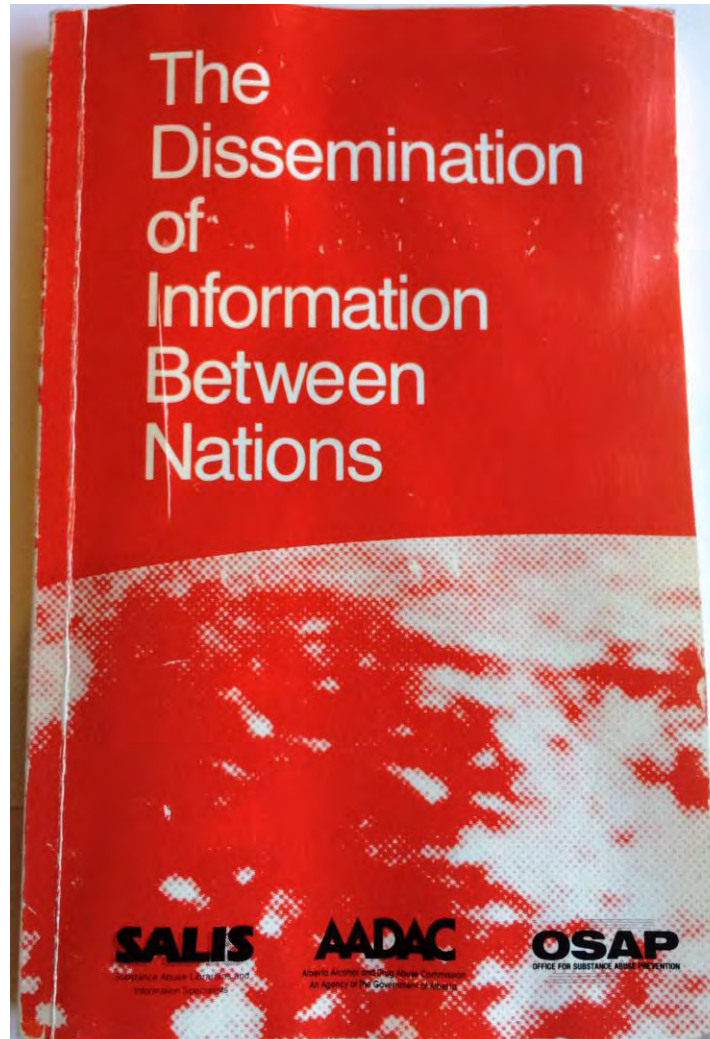
World Health Organization

SALIS

Substance Abuse Librarians
and Information Specialists

- Publishing this document would come to be one of SALIS's milestones.
- One of the most requested pubs from WHO's Substance Abuse Division.
- Later edition revised, but never printed, due to loss of funds at CSAP
- SALIS retains on it's website

Conference Published by Hosts




NIAAA Acts on SALIS Proposals

- Alcohol DB goes public through online vendor 1988
- “ETOH” is name given to database by Director of NIAAA, Enoch Gordis.
- First meeting of Thesaurus construction begins in 1989. Dr Dagobert Soergel, Professor U Maryland Library School Heads Committee
- Five SALIS librarians on the committee.

SALIS


**SUBSTANCE ABUSE LIBRARIANS
& INFORMATION SPECIALISTS**

SALIS 
17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Toward 2000:
Diverse Resources
for Healthy
Communities**

September 12-15, 1995
Gay Inn/Government Center
Boston, Massachusetts
617-451-7630

Workshops
Discussions
Presentations
Papers
Exchange



For more information:
Contact
Government Center
(617) 451-0062
health.org

SALIS

Substance Abuse
Librarians and
Information Specialists

Challenges

- ? Of whether to join another org putting SALIS under an umbrella of larger AOD org or Library Association.
- Challenge to our name by members who were not librarians.

The 1990's

- SALIS proposal to create “Information” section in ICAA passed by ICAA Board.
- Gave SALIS more international exposure and a place to meet with European Librarians, Scientists, Policy and Program professionals.
- Initiated more US attendance at Elisad, and Europeans coming to US for SALIS meetings.
- SALIS invited to International Society of Addiction Journal Editors meeting.

Internet Creates Opportunity

- SALIS Received Funding from CSAP to develop Internet Training Program
- Developed Training Manual on How To Use the internet.
- E-mail, List-servs, Searching DB's
- Many SALIS members involved to both produce and deliver trainings at ICAA Congress & SALIS Boston Conference. 1995

Web 1995

- SALIS Advocates for ETOH to become Free and Web Accessible.
- With support of NIAAA Director, Dr. Gordis, by 1997 this is a reality .
- Another milestone.

1998 20th Anniversary LA

- George Marcelle and Tom Colthurst Hosts
- Academy Awards for SALIS members
- Best Picture went to SALIS
- George created an AOD in the Movies contest
- “Future of SALIS” panel canceled due to tech difficulties

2003 25th Anniversary

Toronto

- SARS caused many cancellations including some of our key speakers.
- SALIS Soldiered On & Interviewed by local media outlet.
- Even sang to the audience
“Sweet, Sweet, The memories you gave to me”
with Eric Helmuth on piano.

25th Anniversary @ Niagara Falls



SAVE ETOH 2004

- Dec 2003 Alerted to the fact that NIAAA was defunding the ETOH, and the ATOD Thesaurus.
- Three SALIS members went to DC to protest
- Successful in getting put on the regular agenda for the next NIAAA Bd meeting in May
- Group of 6 of us worked very hard over those few months to create documentation to show ETOH's reach in the world and it's import to the field.

Presentations Given

- Plenary at KBS in 2005 still hoping for a change in the decision.
- Laid out the argument for researchers on why ETOH was important.
- Resolution from KBS to support SALIS efforts.
- Same at ISAJE meeting

Closures of Libs & DB's Continue

- NIDA Closes in 2006
- NCADI loses contract and new contractor does not support library.
- Losses of libraries and librarians and downsizing continue like dominoes in US, Canada and Europe.
- SALIS keeps record with Closure list.

Advocacy Publishes Editorial in *Addiction*

- To alert the field to the #'s of libraries being shut down
- To make recommendations on what should be done.
- Key in recommendation: Digitization

Editorial

- Press release for lib orgs and atod news outlets.
- Ten letters in response from AOD researchers, historians, agency heads. All supportive.
- *Addiction* editor, “it had the most downloads of any article in years.”

Looking Forward

- Will the loss of libraries continue?
- Can we keep SALIS functioning another 36 years?
- Should we be doing more with social media?
- Can we leave a legacy with the Digitization Project?
- It's not how many members we have, but how many are committed to do the work that needs to be done.

