Message from the Chair
Sharon Crockett
Statewide Clearinghouse Director
Tennessee Alcohol & Drug Association

I was so excited to take over as Chair of SALIS at this year's annual conference in Chicago. The windy city proved to be a drawing point for some new faces at this years conference. We had more international faces at our annual event than I've seen in a long time. Those registrants included Dr. R.P. Kumar from India; Annette Garcia, Virgin Islands; Marianne Van der Heyden, Netherlands; and Faimafiliolii Taamu, American Samoa.

A special thanks to Mary O'Brien, Donna Wagner, and the staff at the Prevention First in Illinois for working so hard to pull the conference together. It was announced that the SALIS Directory would be updated and printing costs would be handled by the Elks Drug Awareness program from Alabama. Andrew Milwid, RADAR Network associate, is Director of that program and should be thanked for his contribution to SALIS.

I'm sure Mary and Donna can be of some assistance to offer pointers on conference planning. Next year's host is Lynn Shipley of Boston. She gave an overview of her plans for our next gathering at this years business meeting and ask for any ideas members may have for the planning process. Lynn says she wants to have the conference in the downtown Boston area and will be working on finding a room rate around $99.00 a night. She wants to focus on a Multi-Cultural theme and the Multi-Cultural Special Interest Group would be happy to help, if we are needed.

A big thanks also goes to outgoing Chair Gail Weinberg if the University of Minnesota Drug Information Services for her work and commitment to SALIS. She will now

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SALIS Conference: From a First Time Attendee
Leigh Hallingby
Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse

As a first-time SALIS conference attendee, I was most impressed by two aspects of the group: their professional diversity and their dedication to information sharing. As far as the first is concerned, SALIS members engage in professional responsibilities as diverse as giving youth, parents and teachers substance abuse prevention information on the one hand and on the other to devising new ways to share drug policy literature on the Internet. Although many SALIS members are part of the RADAR Network, there are a significant number of professionals like me who are not.

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SALIS International Committee Report

Jill Austin
Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

The goal of this committee is to encourage and improve the international dissemination and exchange of alcohol and other drug information. The committee met in Chicago, following a morning of interesting presentations from an international panel. Louise Hamel of the Addiction Research Foundation stepped down as chair, and I was pleased to assume the chair for the next year. There seems to have been a resurgence of interest in the international committee that may be due, in part, to the potential impact of the Internet on our work.

Activities:

The SALIS Exchange Program has been operating for several years now. This program matches libraries in developing countries with those in more developed countries to assist in exchanging information, locating materials, and possibly providing training opportunities. The project has met with mixed success. In the next few months, the committee will be assessing the program’s successes and failures so that it can be revamped into something that we know is useful to all participants. In particular, we will be identifying existing book exchange programs that may be able to assume the role of shipping materials to developing countries.

Andrea Mitchell, Margy Chan and I all attended the Information and Dissemination Section of the International Council on Alcoholism and Addictions (ICAA), in Prague last summer. There was a great deal of discussion at the meeting about how we might create a better international information exchange system for substance abuse information, and about the possibility of developing a joint database. There was a SALIS table at the conference that was well attended.

Andrea Mitchell attended the annual meeting of the European Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and other Drugs (ELISAD) in Utrecht, The Netherlands, in October. She presented a paper on the topic of North American cooperation experiences, and discussed ways in which there could be closer ties between SALIS and ELISAD.

At our meeting in Chicago, the committee members discussed the possibilities of creating an international

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The AOD Thesaurus: Users Report from the Field

Kathleen Mullen, MLIS
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

Samantha Helfert, MLIS
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

At the 1994 SALIS conference, a workshop entitled, "The Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Thesaurus: Users Report from the Field," was held to discuss how the AOD Thesaurus is being used, why it isn’t being used, and what the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse (NIAAA) and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) can do to help promote its use. The informal roundtable discussion of the AOD Thesaurus had two parts to the session. The first half of the session focused on how individuals and organizations are using the AOD Thesaurus; the second half focused on the support services or products the users would like to see from NIAAA and CSAP in order to facilitate and promote the use of the AOD Thesaurus.

The AOD Thesaurus is being used in both traditional and non-traditional ways:

While some libraries have considered incorporating AOD Thesaurus terms into their own classification schemes, they do not have the resources to map (nor convert) their in-house subject headings to Thesaurus descriptors. However, some libraries are incorporating Thesaurus terminology into their classification schemes, when they need more specific terms under a broad subject heading. For example, one library used relevant AOD Thesaurus descriptors to structure its legal area.

The AOD Thesaurus is being used for both controlled vocabulary and free text searching in the ETOH database and other online databases. The Thesaurus is particularly helpful in orientating the user in unfamiliar subject areas.

One librarian asks students and researchers to consult appropriate sections of the Thesaurus to help further define the topic they are interested in, particularly if the question is vague or complex.

Upon submission of an article to a journal, authors often have to provide keywords describing their article. In several cases, authors have called the NIAAA Research Library to request AOD Thesaurus terminology to submit with their article.

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News From Canada
Sheila Lacroix
Canadian SIG Chair
Addiction Research Foundation

Conference Report on Canadian SIG

The Chicago Conference was a very positive experience. First of all, it was an opportunity to visit a city I like and have not been to in years! In addition to the usual benefits one derives from renewing acquaintances, meeting new colleagues and learning new things, I came home particularly enthused about the direction SALIS is taking towards building our international network. Through liaison with European Association of Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and other Drugs (ELISAD), closer ties with our non North American members, exploiting the potential of the Internet for our organization, and involvement in the international conference on the Prevention and Treatment of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence in San Diego next summer, we are beginning to develop strategies towards this goal.

Two Canadian organizations were represented at this conference, CCSA (Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse), and ARF, (Addiction Research Foundation). Prior to the conference, I contacted the Tobacco Clearinghouse, Canadian Council on Smoking and Health, for any input. It is in the midst of a move and a large staff increase. In the next SALIS News, the Tobacco Clearinghouse will be highlighted.

Three main items were discussed in our meeting.

1. Status of Products/Projects at the CCSA - reported by Jill Austin.
   a. The first ever National Treatment Directory is almost hot off the press. With contributions from the provinces and territories, this directory will enable one to access details of treatment centers throughout Canada by a number of indices such as language, target group, geographic location, treatment type and so on.
   c. In progress. National Inventory of Prevention Programs. This will also be the first ever for Canada and will prove most useful.

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Australian Publications

Eva Congreve
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre


Ward, J., R.P. Mattick, and W. Hall (1992). Key Issues in Methadone Maintenance Treatment. Kensington, NSW: New South Wales University Press. (pp. 320). Available from National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of South Wales, Sydney, 2052. Australia. Available for SAUS$34.95 plus airmail postage (postage will vary according to destination of country). Upon receipt of your faxed order, total cost for prepayment of order will be faxed to you. [Fax: (02) 399-7143, e-mail: NDARC@unsw.edu.au].

The first two books are the results of a Quality Assurance Project which was funded by the Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health and developed by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre over a period of more than 2 years. The project team aimed to established appropriate intervention procedures in the treatment of drug related problems for opioids and alcohol misuse. The team reviewed the literature and critically assessed existing treatment programs. A panel of experts assisted in the reviewing process.

The last book - with a forward by John Strang and positive endorsements from a number of internationally known experts in the field - is a comprehensive review on wide ranging issues of methadone maintenance. It addresses key

(Continued on page 6)
Video Views
Valerie Mead
Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies

Alcohol and other drug videos were a significant feature of the recent 1994 SALIS conference in Chicago. Kudos to Sharon Crockett, SALIS's new chair, who put together an interesting selection of video presentations. Randall Fredericks, President of Moving Images Company and Senior Vice President of FMS Productions, opened up Tuesday's program with a talk about how alcoholism within his own family has influenced his work as a producer of AOD videos. SALIS members also got to participate in an "up close and personal" discussion with several video producers that was followed by a viewing and evaluation session of selected current releases.

The panel program included Gerald T. Rogers of Gerald T. Rogers Productions, Joel Allschul of Allschul Group Corporation, Randall Fredericks, Jo Ann Moore of GWC (formerly named the Gary Whittaker Corporation), and Steve Finch of Pyramid Film and Video. And if you adore being a media name dropper as I do, within our own small world of AOT video aficionados you could command some impressive "Wows" by tossing a few of these names around. The sizeable audience turnout was encouraging (and I noticed as word about the program got out, the numbers increased for the later viewing and evaluation session) and supports the view for a more visible video presence within SALIS. Discussion was informative and lively, sometimes bordering on the controversial.

The first issue that was addressed was the pricing of AOD videos. Sharon hoped that by introducing this sensitive topic at the start, it could be dealt with quickly (painlessly?) and we could advance to other concerns. But such was not the case - largely in part because of one panel member's repeated response to simply not buy a video if we think it's too high-priced. This defensive position seemed an open provocation amidst the otherwise congenial conversation about a difficult yet unavoidable subject.

Pricing among the different companies' videos is comparable. All stressed the business end of their work - that in order to continue to make new videos, they needed to recoup costs from previous productions. How does this break-down in dollars and cents? A quality production can run anywhere from $80,000 - $150,000 per title. (Ouch!) These costs plus the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars from video piracy need to be covered. Also, the demand for experienced acting often means the use of

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Online News
Andrea Mitchell
Alcohol Research Group

The Smoking and Health Database produced by CDC's Office on Smoking and Health is now available on CD-ROM. Covering over 30 years of citations to the smoking and health literature, including over 60,000 abstracts of journal articles, books, technical reports, and government documents, the database is one of several in the CDP file, which includes among others Health Education, Cancer Prevention, and School Health. The Government Printing Office (GPO) is the vendor on this and you must order the "CDP file," as GPO has no title listing for Smoking and Health.

Minimum system requirements needed for the CD-Rom are:
- An IBM PC, XT, or AT or compatible
- 500 kilobyte (KB) of random access memory (RAM)
- A minimum of 2 MB of free disk space
- MS-DOS 3.1 or higher
- A CD-ROM drive with MS-DOS ext. 2.0 or higher
- A CONFIG.SYS file with FILES=20 & BUFFERS=15

To order the Smoking and Health Database on CD-Rom, please contact: Government Printing Office / Superintendent of Documents, PO Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954 or call (202) 783-3238. Request: CDP File - CD-Rom Subscription (available Fall 1994). Stock Number: 717-145-0000-3. Subscription Cost: $44.00 per year for two releases.

(SALIS International Committee Report... Continues)

substance abuse information exchange system on the Internet. We agreed to compile the names and e-mail addresses of all those interested in furthering this goal. In addition, it was suggested that we draft a motion to take to the SALIS membership at the general meeting about the need for such a system. This following motion was made and passed by those attending the business meeting: "SALIS supports the idea of an international information exchange system that would encourage and facilitate communication and cooperation, as well as eliminate duplication of effort, regarding, in particular, documents on policy, statistical information, evaluated programs, and fugitive literature."

Anyone interested in knowing more about our activities should contact me at (613) 235-4048, (613) 235-8101 (fax), or ccesa@fox.nstn.ca (e-mail).
Book Review

Geoffrey P. Hunt
Institute for Scientific Analysis


According to Gefou-Madianou, the editor of "Alcohol, Gender and Culture", in spite of an increase in the number of "readers" on cross-cultural literature on alcohol, there are nevertheless five reasons why this collection of essays is different. First, this collection, unlike for example the "reader" edited by Mary Douglas (1987), is written solely by anthropologists and deals exclusively with alcoholic beverages. Second, because this collection is comprised of recent ethnographic accounts of drinking, it allows for "consistent comparisons of ethnographic data". Third, the articles in this book examine the relationship between alcohol studies and "recent anthropological issues". Fourth, even though European populations consume 50% of the recorded alcohol production, few ethnographic studies have concentrated on drinking in Europe. Finally, unlike other epidemiological studies, this collection of essays explores the links between public drinking places and other important social institutions, for example, the household and the church.

If this then is the rationale for the collection, what then is its specific focus? According to Gefou-Madianou, the focus is on the relationship between alcohol and four related issues: gender, identity transformations, commoditization, and religious ideology. In examining these issues, the reader is provided with ethnographic information on a wide-range of seemingly diverse topics, including, among others - drinking and female entertainers in Egypt; the symbolism of wine, religion and gender in a convent in Greece; alcohol and bodily substance among the Hungarian Rom; and drinking, fishing and gender in Southern Ireland. All of the articles provide a rich source of ethnographic information on drinking and gender, and for those who are interested in cross-cultural studies on alcohol consumption this is an important contribution to the field.

However, as in many collected editions, the quality of the articles is uneven. For example, the pieces on wine production in the Alsace; drinking in Andalusia; and drinking and masculinity in a Swedish provincial town are very descriptive and theoretically rather underdeveloped. Although this in itself is not a problem, when placed side by side with some of the more analytical accounts, the reader begins to feel dissatisfied with a relative absence of insightful analysis. For example, the article on fishing and drinking in an Irish town is an excellent example of the way in which a detailed descriptive account of drinking practices can be interlinked with a discussion of male and female identity. This is also the case in the article on gender and commoditization in a Greek town. In this study, Gefou-Madianou traces the divisions and unity between men and women within the community by examining the production and consumption of retsina and sweet wine. Finally, the article by Papagaroufali, on alcohol consumption in a women's coffee house in Athens provides an important discussion of the way in which women use alcohol to attempt to redefine their gender positions. This article was also important because it provided an example of women's attempt to gain greater equality by asserting their right to exist in a previously exclusive male domain, that of the Greek coffeehouse.

In spite of the relative unevenness of the articles, overall, Gefou-Madianou, and her fellow contributors, are to be congratulated for providing us not merely with a wealth of ethnographic material on drinking behavior and commoditization, but also for supplying us with important ethnographic material on issues of gender relationships and gender identification discussed within the context of alcohol consumption.

Periodical News

Most of us have by now heard about the CSAP "Community Partnership." Here are two current periodicals which have provided entire issues with a focus on this program.

New Designs for Youth Development Vol. 11, No. 3, Summer 1994. Available for $6.00 from Associates for Youth Development, Inc. PO Box. 36748, Tucson, AZ 85740. FAX (602) 297-5160. This is a magazine format with brief descriptive articles on various aspects of the community partnership programs, including the training and evaluation components.

Journal of Community Psychology (Monograph Series CSAP Special Issue) "Community Partnership Program: Center for Substance Abuse Prevention." Shakeh Jackie Kaferian and William Hansen Special Editors. Major theme of this issue is on methodologies for evaluating the community partnership programs. Order # BK221. Available from NCADI, PO Box 2345, Rockville, MD 20847-2345.
New Books


What’s New in Reference Sources

Announcing:


Definitions for approximately 300 alcohol, tobacco, and other drug terms with links to the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) by providing ICD-10 codes where appropriate. This is a companion volume to the Lexicon of Psychiatric and Mental Health Terms.

Government Documents / Fugitive Literature


See: What’s New in Reference Sources.

NOTE RE: NIDA Monographs. NIDA has agreed to send all FULL SALIS Members one free copy of the NIDA Monograph as they are published. If you are a SALIS member and do not want to receive the monographs, please contact SALIS Home. In the 1995 SALIS membership application there will be a space for you to check for free government publications.

(Australian Publications... Continues)

areas such as: (Ward, Mattick, & Hall 1992 p.3)

- the effectiveness if methadone maintenance;
- methadone maintenance and HIV/AIDS;
- the duration of methadone maintenance;
- methadone dosage;
- assessment of methadone maintenance;
- the role of urinalysis;
- the role of counseling;
- methadone maintenance during pregnancy; and
- withdrawal regimens at the conclusion of treatment.

All three authors of the last book are from National Drug & Alcohol research Centre. Jeff Ward was at the time writing the book, a Research Officer, Richard Mattick is now a Senior Lecturer, and Wayne Hall is now the Director of the Centre.
NCADI to SALIS Mailings

Many of you have contacted the SALIS Home Office inquiring about NCADI mailings. By now all SALIS members should have received a letter from Samantha Helfert of NCADI, along with a list of current NCADI materials for distribution. NCADI no longer has the resources to automatically send one copy of all inventory items to SALIS members, so has instead sent out a flyer which will be mailed on a monthly basis announcing the New inventory item, and giving you the chance to order those items which you need. Please let SALIS Home know if you not get this mailing.

(SALIS Conference ... Continues)

I have to confess that, although I have been a substance abuse librarian for two years, the words RADAR and to the SALIS conference. So I had a lot to learn from Prevline were not even part of my vocabulary before I got sessions such as Illinois Prevention Resource Center, Impact of the Community Health Networks and the Potential Impact on the Prevention Center Librarians, and Information Centers That Have Gone Down the Planning Path. Yet, since I work in an academic setting for a national organization, the Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA), I also had a great deal to learn from international presentations such as Development of Information Exchange in Europe, The International Exchange of Substance Abuse Information, and The Information Revolution: Challenges for the Developing Countries.

If SALIS members are professionally highly diverse, they are clearly united by their dedication to freedom of information. I was impressed with the determination of those professionals devising better ways to respond to the needs of their community-based clientele, as I was with the dedication of the internationally-oriented group to creating a database of fugitive substance abuse literature which will live on the Internet. Of course, the common tool that allows SALIS members to carry out the goals to which they are dedicated is the computer technology to which we all now have access, including the information highway.

So it was an exciting experience for me to attend my first SALIS conference, to learn about the parts of the substance abuse information field which were not familiar to me, and to meet so many individuals whose names were familiar to me from the SALIS Directory and SALIS News. I came away feeling, above all, proud to be part of such a professionally diverse group who all share a deep dedication to sharing information with their clientele and with each other.

2. CCSA and ARF computerized information services - concurrent development.

In the previous SALIS News, I reported on ARF's electronic bulletin board SANO and the CCSA's Computerized Information Service. We discussed how these two systems can complement each other in a non-competitive way. The goals of the two systems were defined and are quite distinct. The CCSA's has a national perspective with a mandate to link organizations throughout Canada, in particular the provincial agencies or health ministries involved in substance abuse issues. Also, the CCSA's service makes available its own publications and all of its information databases which are national in scope, being made up of contributions from all of the provinces and territories. SANO is the bulletin board of the Addiction Research Foundation and the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, providing news and information generated from these organizations as well as other organizations in the substance abuse and related fields. In addition, SANO is an electronic network linking substance abuse professionals within Ontario with each other and with the resources of ARF. Both systems encourage participation by the global community and may make available, in some instances, the same information, but each has a distinct mandate. One goal is a technical interface between the two systems.

3. Telemedicine Conference

ARF reported its involvement in a Canadian Hospital Association Telemedicine Conference on Substance Abuse information sources for hospital and health center libraries throughout Canada, January 1995. ARF requested input from CCSA and will request input from other provinces via the CCSA's Computerized Information System.

Canadian SALIS members not able to attend the conference are encouraged to contact me regarding any issues that interest you and to comment on the above.

NIAAAA Library Needs Book!

June Picciano, librarian of the NIAAA Alcohol Library, would like to find a copy of E.L. Abel, *Fetal Alcohol Syndrome*, Medical Economics Books, 1990. It's out of print. Anyone with a copy to donate should contact her at (202) 842-7600. Many thanks!
Call for Papers ICAA Congress: Information Section

The International Congress on Alcohol and the Addictions is meeting in San Diego August 20-25th, 1995. The Information Section is seeking papers and presentations concerning all aspects of collecting, organizing, managing, and/or disseminating alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs information. Please contact Andrea Mitchell for an official abstract form if you do not already have one. Deadline for abstracts will be March 1, 1995.

A reminder that all SALIS members registering for this meeting before June 6, receive a $70.00 discount off the $450.00 registration fee. Plans are underway for Internet training at the Congress. This is a great opportunity for meeting many of your international colleagues.

Andrea Mitchell, Co-Chair Information Section, 2000 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709. FAX (510) 642-7175. Internet: DRINKSA2@CMSA.BERKELEY.EDU or Prevline: Amitchell.

(The AOD Thesaurus... Continues)

NIAAA and CSAP are using the AOD Thesaurus to index their databases. NIAAA’s ETOH Database is currently being indexed with the Thesaurus, and by the end of November, the database will be completely re-indexed with Thesaurus terminology. NIAAA has used a combination of automatic conversion and original indexing to re-index the database. CSAP has indexed a third of its Information on Drugs and Alcohol Database (IDA).

The workshop participants suggested products and services that would assist users and potential users of the AOD Thesaurus:

A few librarians suggested that NIAAA/CSAP provide a service that assists libraries map their classification schemes to the AOD Thesaurus. Manually mapping old terminology to new terminology is a very time consuming process. If libraries could have their schemes automatically mapped to the Thesaurus, more systems would adopt the Thesaurus terminology.

Many librarians would like NIAAA/CSAP to publish a version of the AOD Thesaurus in an alphabetical display. An alphabetical listing containing scope notes and cross-references in a format similar to that of the PsychINFO and ERIC Thesauri could potentially be more user-friendly. Because more librarians are familiar with this type of format, they may be more inclined to use the AOD Thesaurus.

ETOH users would like the AOD Thesaurus placed online. This service would enhance and simplify online searching. Searchers would not need to “or” many terms together to search inclusively, and they would not need to refer to the hard copy during an online search.

Offering the AOD Thesaurus in electronic format on floppy disks was suggested. Some of the workshop participants would like the AOD Thesaurus in electronic format so that it could be uploaded onto their in-house database software. This format would allow them to customize the AOD Thesaurus: they would be able to keep only needed terms, add new terms that they need, and still have terminology compatible with the other databases using the AOD Thesaurus.

Almost all the participants would like to see “cataloging in publication” data for NIAAA, CSAP, and National Institute on Drug Abuse publications. To assist librarians in classifying and cataloging new documents, publishers print Library of Congress (LC) subject headings in their new books. SALIS librarians would like a similar service in which the Institutes provide AOD Thesaurus terminology in their publications. This service would provide consistent indexing terminology for all libraries who add these federal publications to their collections.

The next AOD Thesaurus Advisory Committee Meeting in February 1995 will examine issues related to the next edition of the Thesaurus. In addition, the Committee members will assess the feasibility of providing the suggested products and services.

We welcome any further suggestions about products or services that would promote or facilitate AOD Thesaurus use. We especially would like to hear from those who have the Thesaurus but are not presently using it. Your feedback on why you have not been able to use it would be very helpful.

Forward any feedback or comments to Kathleen Mullen (kmullen on PREVline, kmullen@prevline.health.org on the Internet) or Samantha Helfert (shelfert on PREVline, samh@prevline.health.org on the Internet).

PLEASE NOTE: Included in this issue is a review of the AOD Thesaurus reprinted with permission from Knowledge Organization.
The Alcohol and Other Drug Thesaurus: A Guide to Concepts and Terminology in Substance Abuse and Addiction. Published by the USA Department of Health and Human Services. First edition 1993, $25.00, obtainable from the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information, P.O.Box 2345, Rockville, MD 20847-2345, USA.

The Alcohol and Other Drug ("AOD") Thesaurus is conceived for use in the indexing of literature in the interdisciplinarily field indicated in the subtitle. It covers - as also shown by the broad arrangement of contents presented below - the fields of medicine, psychology and the social and natural sciences. The contents are arranged as follows:

A: AOD use, abuse, and dependence;
B: AOD substance or product;
C-G: Concepts in natural science biomedicine, and psychology;
H-J: Process and methods of diagnosis, prevention and treatment;
L-O: Concepts in psychosocial and socio-cultural areas and technology;
P-T: Concepts applicable across disciplines;
V: Place, language, religions;
W: Living Organism;
X: Body part;
Y-Z: Chemical substances.

The thesaurus was developed in four years of work under the leadership of Prof. Soergel of the University of Maryland by a working group composed of 13 staff members of the following institutes: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, National Institute of Health, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. A group of 10 outside consultants also cooperated. The thesaurus was put to practical testing at 9 institutes.

The concepts for this thesaurus were compiled from 40 individual thesauri in relevant fields. Besides a detailed introduction and a synoptic table the thesaurus comprises some 600 pages in the systematic and some 300 pages in the alphabetic part.

The systematic part of the thesaurus is lucidly arranged according to hierarchical concept relations (genus/species and whole/part). Here and there (where desirable in the interest of a higher order) the subordinate concepts have been grouped together according to the subdivision point of view which governed their formation, as is there the case, e.g., with the chemical substances. This contributes to the clarity of arrangement of the thesaurus, with associative conceptual relationships likewise being thoroughly taken into account.

The arrangement of the AOD Thesaurus follows the usual subdivisions in the various fields. Each descriptor is listed in the thesaurus only at one place (its home place), even if logically several places are possible. At all these other places a reference to the home place will be found. This mitigates the arbitrariness inevitably connected with any linearization of a network of conceptual relations.
Both in the systematic and the alphabetic part one is made aware of the existence of subordinated concepts by the fact that they are either listed in the immediate vicinity of the starting descriptor or that reference is made to them in case they have found their home place elsewhere.

In addition, every concept having at least one subordinated concept is characterized by a "-" sign preceding it. Thus, already in the alphabetic part one is invited to look up this concept in the systematic part and take the subordinated concepts listed there into consideration. Also, one is made aware of useful superordinated concepts and associatively related concepts which can either themselves or in the form of related concepts be included in the query formulation.

If, however, one proceeds from a subject without already having a quite specific technical term in mind, access will be obtained, in the manner already described, directly via the systematic part, which in an abbreviated form, limited to the top hierarchical levels only, precedes the actual thesaurus.

Thanks to the overview afforded by the AOD Thesaurus over the technical terminology it also offers help in the formulation of queries in full or free texts as e.g. abstracts. One takes from it the technical terms to be taken into consideration and uses these as alternative search parameters. For this, too, examples are given.

Such a readily overseeable thesaurus structure permits of indexing according to the proven principle of always looking for and using, the descriptors best fitting in any given case. Hence a principle which outside of the libraries and the "controlled vocabularies" regrettably has largely fallen into oblivion. In the AOD Thesaurus, success of a search for the best fitting descriptors should be assured even under the conditions of everyday practice (e.g. under the pressure of time every indexers has to cope with).

Precombination is used only sparingly. Thus the thesaurus is kept readily overseeable and the user's search for the best fitting descriptors in any given case is facilitated. At the same time the possibility is retained of perfecting the thesaurus through the later, supplementary introduction of a syntax. This might prove a most effective compensation for the well-founded dispensation with specificity as resulting from the scarcity of precombinations. For such compensation a thesaurus with only few precombinations is particularly well suited. Thus the AOD Thesaurus possesses a solid foundation for such an expansion, which will possibly prove necessary in the future.

The examples given for indexing and query formulation are instructive and sobering for all those who cherish the illusion that these processes will some day be completely automated. For the requirements imposed on the professional judgment of the indexers and their continually changing background knowledge, are far too great to permit of such automation, with a great deal depending on how thoroughly the problem of the information seeker is investigated by the system expert.

Regarding the formulation of the query it seems evident that the large majority of the information seekers will not wish to dispense with the cooperation of a system expert, for even the handling of the simplest Boolean operators alone confronts the less experienced queriers (probably the majority of the system users) with major difficulties, as experience has shown.

The AOD Thesaurus is suitable as an application model for other fields as well in which similarly high requirements must be imposed on the recall and precision of retrieval now and/or in the future. This is facilitated by the fact that the subject-matter coverage of the thesaurus extends also into other fields on which a need for a highly developed documentation methodology exists.

An obvious pertinent example would be the indexing of books. Here, too, the searcher must not content himself with the starting subject heading coming to his mind; rather, he needs here, too, most complete references as to subject headings that are more or less closely related to the starting subject heading. Here, too, access to the contents might be thoroughly improved if a double index, an alphabetical and a systematical one, were available.

The AOD Thesaurus will permit high quality searches in that it creates the preconditions for specific and reliable indexing. However, in the future, too, the indexers must always be equipped with the required professional knowledge, and they must also be given sufficient time to do their job.

However, the indexing of literature with the aid of this thesaurus will in the initial phase require some perseverance, for there will be no lack of critics who claim that the goals pursued with this thesaurus might be reached in a cheaper and simpler fashion. But it is in the nature of such simplifications that it is only in the initial stage that they appear to be more economical, namely only as long as the large and continuously increasing effort inherently required in primitive systems for carrying out searches deceptively has not yet become apparent, and only as long as the great losses incurred in such searches have not yet become evident. Such non-fulfillable promises have already proved fatal to many a highly developed information system.

Evidently the causes for the failure of the information systems hitherto existing in the difficult and wide field of drug addiction have been clearly recognized in the USA, with the result that, as a corrective measure, the masterpiece of thesaurus-making reviewed here has now been created. The AOD Thesaurus should be taken as an example wherever similar high requirements are imposed, or will be imposed in the future on recall precision in retrieval.

Robert Fugmann

Dr. R. Fugmann, Alte Poststr. 13, D-65510 Idstein, Germany

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News Evaluation Results

The response to the News Evaluation from SALIS News readers was much appreciated by the SALIS Home Office. A total of thirty-seven questionnaires were returned and in general, News seems to get high marks for its content.

Government Documents was checked as "most important" by 21 respondents followed by New Books and What’s New in Reference Sources, both receiving a 20. When tallying the two highest categories together, the same three columns still came out on top. Online News, Periodical News and Net News were the next most important areas to the majority of respondents, followed by Videos and News From Canada, all running very close to each other overall. SALIS Director Updates seemed to be the least important. In the open ended section of the questionnaire, there were twenty people who mentioned or circled the "Highlight of a Library/Clearinghouse" (this is a column in need of a writer!), twelve who circled Conference Announcements, and ten who circled Book Review.

One person mentioned wanting to see a column on frequently asked questions, and how to select database software. If there are volunteers for writing or contributing to any of these columns, please let us hear from you. And thank you to those of you who took the time to respond!

(Views Views... Continues)

Screen Actors Guild members who are paid significantly more than non-Guild members. Some of the companies have experimented with alternate ways of marketing such as lowering the prices on particular titles, but it has not brought an increase in sales. One company offered a subscription library (much the way consumer book, video, and CD/cassette clubs work) but found the service threatened to put them out of business.

Multiculturalism in AOD videos was another key concern. It became obvious from the discussion that a communication gap exists between the producers’ and the buyers’ expectations. The lack of cultural diversity among panel members reflects the white, middle class orientation of most of their work. Simply stated, they feel there has not been a significant buying market for works geared towards specific minority populations. They also expressed frustration about the demands to address so many different and distinct audiences without buyer’s knowledge of the laborious process that is involved in making an idea into an actual production. Audience members, however, were aware of the limitations of the business. Their requests for more varied portrayals in videos outside the heterosexual, white, middle class standard that predominates were not unreasonable.

The panel is to be commended for their willingness to participate with SALIS members in this on-going dialogue about AOD videos. The intention of the program was not necessarily to come away with set answers but to meet face-to-face with the makers of an expensive product that requires purchase considerations for the buyers and production considerations for the producers. In our next SALIS News issue, Sharon Crockett will present the audience evaluations about the videos that were pre-viewed.

(Message From the Chair... Continues)

serve as Past-Chair on the Executive Board. Congratulations are in order for Jim Markiewicz of the Wisconsin Clearinghouse who was elected to become Chair-Elect; Tom Colthurst (Treasurer); and Eva Congreve, Debbie Monkman, and Monique van Ruyven (Members-At-Large). Valerie McAd still remains as Secretary.

Although my job title is Clearinghouse Director, part of my duties include being a Substance Abuse Librarian and an Information Specialist, and I would like to see more Clearinghouse types in SALIS as well as members of CSAP’s RADAR Network. The information that is gained from an organization like SALIS is so very valuable to entrance ramps to the superhighway.

I have been a SALIS member since 1989 and never thought I would be Chair of this organization. I am eager to serve and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. Please don’t hesitate to contact me or other SALIS Board members if you have concerns or ideas for SALIS. I encourage you to become involved in various committees, special interest groups, conferences or other SALIS activities. Have a great year and continued success to your program.

NIDA Publication Catalog

For its 20th Anniversary, NIDA 1974-1994 has issued a Publications Catalog complete with forms for ordering from NCADI, NTIS, and GPO. There is also a subject index! I wonder if it is going to be offered to the Librarians / Information Specialists anytime soon?
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**Editor:**
Andrea Mitchell
Alcohol Research Group
2000 Hearst Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709
Internet: DRINKSA2@CMSA.BERKELEY.EDU
Prevline: Amitchell

**Desktop Publishing:**
Tim Nguyen
SALIS
P.O. Box 9513
Berkeley, CA 94709-0513

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Mail to: SALIS News
P.O. Box 9513
Berkeley, CA 94709-0513

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**Deadline for next issue of SALIS News**

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