Message from the Chair
Sheila Lacroix
Addiction Research Foundation

Meeting Everyone’s Information Needs in AOD-Related Fields

In the aftermath of International Special Librarians Day last Thursday April 17, celebrated with enthusiasm at ARF, I found myself reflecting on some pretty frightening observations. When you read News from Canada, you will be alerted of what seems to be a growing trend in Canada: the elimination or cutting back of publicly funded information services in the AOD and related fields.

Fortunately, the Ontario agency where I work still values its library and information services which serve the full spectrum of patrons, from the public and students to health care workers and researchers. Other Ontario funded libraries have not been as fortunate, in particular the government ministry libraries, such as Community and Social Services, Labour and now soon slated to go - Health! Yes, it is hard to believe.

Why has the ARF library managed to defy the trend? I believe it is the research component of its mandate. Whoever

(Continued on page 8)

SALIS Conference 1997

By now, all people reading this column should have received the Call for Papers for the SALIS Conference. Please note the deadline date for getting your abstract to Percy Brown, Conference Chair, is June 11, 1997. Scholarship information and application will be included in the next mailing, with hotel and registration details. Please make a note that you have until August 15th to return scholarship applications. NOTE: Percy Brown’s new e-mail address is pbrown@mail.doh.state.ar.us. His phone number and fax remain the same. (501) 280-4506 FAX: (501) 280-4519.

SALIS Bids Farewell

Tim Nguyen, SALIS Home Administrative Assistant, is off to medical school. Tim has been here since the beginning of his freshman year at UC Berkeley and has been the key behind-the-scenes person operating SALIS Home business and other operations. With organizational skills that are hard to come by, he has maintained and updated the SALIS database, desktopped all of the SALIS Newsletters over the past five years, mailed News and numerous conference mailings, received and deposited all incoming checks, and in general, corresponded with a myriad of pesons concerning the SALIS organization. He will be greatly missed by the Alcohol Research Group and SALIS, but we send him on his way with a big Thank-you and Congratulations, and high hopes for the future!

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SALIS News, Vol. 17, No. 1

Spring 1997
News from Canada

Denise Holmen
Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA)

The good news is that the Canadian government has allocated some money for the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse for the 1997/98 fiscal year. Consequently, both the Centre and the Clearinghouse will continue their operations, albeit in a reduced capacity. The bad news is that CCSA’s reduced budget has resulted in the need for several members to work part time.

The reductions will impact the work of the Clearinghouse. Activities such as maintenance of the CCSA’s Web site, information requests, development of directories, cataloguing, etc., may now take a little longer to complete and the Clearinghouse collection will not be growing as quickly as in the early years.

The Fetal Alcohol Information Service has received most of its funding for this fiscal year. Current levels of service should not be affected.

In terms of comings and goings, the Clearinghouse is extremely pleased to announce that Bette Reimer, the Head of the AADAC Library and long time SALIS member, will be coming to Ottawa mid-May to replace Margo Hawley as Senior Information Specialist. After much agonizing, Margo accepted a position with a large research library outside of the substance abuse field. Bette has filled in for Margo once before, so the transition period should be pretty seamless. Best wishes to both Bette and Margo in their new positions!

News from Ontario

In March, the Ontario government proposed the merger of the Addictions Research Foundation, with the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, the Donwood Institute and Queen Street Mental Health Centre. Negotiations for a merged “Addictions and Mental Health Services Corporation” are now underway.

ARF Library staff are uncertain what the amalgamation will mean to their services. They are, however, well placed by providing the gateway to a new Clinical Consultation Service for professionals dealing with addiction problems in Ontario. Library staff receive and refer callers to one of three on-call consultants: the drug/pharmacy, medical or psychosocial specialists. They also provide back-up readings and other information services as required.

(Continued on page 8 )

Alcohol Industry on the Web

http://www.marininstitute.org
Eris Weaver, MLIS
Marin Institute for the Prevention of AOD Problems

The Marin Institute for the Prevention of Alcohol & Other Drug Problems has made its alcohol policy and industry database available to the public via its World Wide Web site, located at http://www.marininstitute.org. Used extensively by prevention researchers and advocates, this information is now accessible to a wider audience, thanks to a one-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

As part of our goal to hold accountable those who profit from harmful conditions, the Marin Institute acts as a watchdog of alcohol marketing practices. What distinguishes our approach to the prevention of alcohol-related problems is that instead of focusing on individual risk factors, we concentrate on the environments that support and glamorize alcohol use. The alcohol beverage industry, which spends one billion dollars annually to advertise its products in the U.S. and lobbies heavily for favorable public policy, is a large component of our social and political environment.

This database contains citations and brief abstracts for over thirteen thousand articles and news stories about the alcohol beverage industry, alcohol policy, and prevention efforts. The time period covered is 1991 to the present; the Web version is updated monthly. Sources include industry trade journals, major newspapers and business journals, and advertising journals. The database is indexed using subject headings from the Marin Institute Thesaurus, a version of which is available on the Web site. Extensive help in effective searching is available at the site, which is hosted by Andromot Consulting, Inc. and uses InMagic’s DB/Text WebServer.

Other information available via the Institute’s Web site include our mission statement, schedules for upcoming training workshops, reprints of Institute research and publications, and links to other prevention organizations as well as to alcohol beverage industry sites. We will also be releasing the database on CD-ROM for those who don’t have access to the Internet; the CD-ROM version will be updated quarterly and will be distributed on a cost-recovery basis.

This project has been funded under a one-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. For me, it has been a crash course in Web page design and indexing, HTML coding, and CDR technology, not to mention installing LOTS of new hardware and software on my computer!

Please direct any questions, comments, or suggestions to me at erisw@marininstitute.org or 415-456-5692.
News from the Antipodes
Peter McCormack
Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia Library

Drugs of Dependence Is No More: There have been some significant changes in the structure and composition of the Federal Health and Family Services Department Branch that administers the Australian National Drug Strategy and I thought our SALIS colleagues might like to be brought up-to-date. The old Drugs of Dependence Branch (which administered the National Drug Strategy) has been split up across a number of new Branches and Sections. Primarily, it resides within the National Health Promotion and Protection Branch which comprises Healthy Public Policy Unit, Major Litigation Taskforce, Population Health Strategies Section, Tobacco and Alcohol Strategies Section, and Illicit Drug Strategy Section. Some campaign and other drug education related activities are managed by the Public Health Education Unit which is a Section within the National Centre for Disease Control Branch. Evaluation of the National Drug Strategy has been part of the Evaluation Unit, a section within the National Public Health Policy and Planning Branch. Media Liaison is officially part of the role of the Business Unit.

Confused? Don't worry because the next Federal Budget due for release early next month (19 May) is likely to usher in more changes. The essential point for us is how well this structure facilitates coordinated government responses to drug and alcohol issues. This ability had been a distinguishing feature of the old structure. The fact that almost all senior personnel with specific drug and alcohol experience and knowledge have left compounds what must be a very difficult time for the Department.

National Drug Strategy Evaluation: While all this restructuring has been taking place, the National Drug Strategy itself has been evaluated by Professors Eric Single and Tim Rohl. They have finished their information gathering and written their report. While not yet public, discussions with the evaluators and others who have had close contact with the review process, all suggest that the report is likely to make some very important recommendations about the future of the NDS.

ADCA Library Redevelopment: Our interest in all of this is not entirely altruistic; the ADCA Library is almost totally funded as a National Drug Strategy project and we therefore viewed the Drugs of Dependence Branch as our major stakeholder. Because of a very close working relationship where we have been able to prove our worth, we have been largely spared the program cuts and efficiencies which accompanied the change of Government last year.

(Continued on page 8)

TOXIBASE on the Web
http://www.ofdt.fr:80/bulletin/toxibase
Thomas Rouault
TOXIBASE

For ten years, as an Information Centre, supported by the French Government, TOXIBASE has been offering a variety of information and documentary resources about addictions and drug abuse - a bibliographic database, a quarterly journal, a press review, a Videotext service, and document consultation.

The Toxibase bibliographic database is a bilingual French-English scientific information tool managed by a national network of 9 information and documentation centres. It target the professionals of the drug abuse field and all information users concerned with the topic (medical practitioners, pharmacists, social workers, researchers, students, teachers, prevention specialists, magistrates, police, journalists, parents, etc.).

The web database has been implemented in partnership with the host server of the French Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addictions (OFDT).

You can also access TOXIBASE directly from the OFDT BBS home page (http://www.ofdt.fr) and select <Le message des partenaires> in the Bulletin Electronique and then <TOXIBASE>.

This service is free of charge in 1997, but requires the registration of a contract to obtain a login and a personal password (for the bibliographic database only, access to the BBS is free in french only).

Database Description


Document types: books, journal articles, research reports, thesis and dissertations, conference proceedings, international organizations documents, booklets&leaflets.

Geographical source: French 42%, English 46%, German 5%, Spanish 4%, others 3%

A high quality information: french abstracts (90% of the database documents), English abstracts (40% since 1992).

(Continues on page 8)
ETOH on the WEB

http://etho.niaaa.nih.gov
Andrea L. Mitchell
Alcohol Research Group

ETOH, The Alcohol Science Database of the U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, made its debut on the Web in the Fall of 1996. This bibliographic database is the oldest and largest electronic alcohol research compiliation in the world. Covering the bio-psycho-social aspects of alcohol use and abuse, one can find the literature on definitions and theories, general and special population studies, epidemiology, prevention and treatment, evaluation, methodology, medical and social problems aspects, economics and cost data, cross-cultural and international studies, etc.

Currently, there are nearly 100,000 records in the database spanning the literature from the early 70's to the present. Approximately 4,000 records are added to the database each year, with monthly updates. Records include bibliographic information, agency affiliation, funding source, grant/contract number, an abstract of approximately 300-500 words, and descriptive terminology drawn from the Alcohol and Other Drug Thesaurus, to give subject access. In addition, most of the records have an address for the first author in the "availability field". Document types indexed in ETOH include journal articles: 60,000, book chapters from edited works: 9,400; conference papers: 7,000; reports: 6,200; dissertations: 3,200; books: 2,800, Magazine articles: 1,900; Proceedings: 900; and Misc: 5,500. This latter group includes hearings, legislation, newsletters, etc. collected prior to 1980 (when this material was included.)

Advantages to Searching ETOH

- ETOH covers almost all of the 40 plus English language alcohol and other drug (AOD) journals, and many of the foreign AOD journals, as well all of the core journals from the bio-psycho-social sciences. This saves having to cross over various discipline databases.

- Unlike most of the discipline databases which mainly index journal articles, ETOH’s vast coverage of the other document types (as mentioned above), give the searcher a broader array of the literature available.

- It runs on a very powerful, userfriendly, fast and efficient WEB enabled search engine known as DB/Textwork, which is far and away ahead of the systems which allow you to enter one word queries, and then stack from there.

- ETOH allows both adjacency and proximity in searching, an extremely useful and powerful search capability.

- Its FREE via the Web

New NIAAA Surveillance Reports

#38 Trends in Alcohol-Related Fatal Traffic Crashes 1977-1994
#39 Apparent Per-Capita Alcohol Consumption: National, State, and Regional Trends, 1977-1994
#40 Trends in Alcohol Related Morbidity Among Short-Stay Community Hospital Discharges, US, 1979-1994
#41 Liver Cirrhosis Mortality in the United States, 1970-1993

Contact Gerry Williams at 202 842-7600. SALIS members should have already received.
What’s New in Online Reference Sources
Andrea L. Mitchell
Alcohol Research Group

Apologies to Behavioral Resources Press for not giving the address and price information for the report reviewed in the last issue of SALIS News on page 6. Please note: Matthew S. Mingus (Ed.) Part of the Solution: Useful Information from the Front Lines of Community Development Partnership is available from Manisses Communications, 208 Governor St., Providence, RI 02906. Phone 1-800-333-7771.


Health Resources Online is a 138 page guide which is well organized and provides a wealth of information for the mental health and addiction professional. The chapter on “general resources on the web” gives informative and evaluative annotations for approximately one hundred sites, including details such as how long it takes for the site to load due to graphic design. An added feature is the group of icons used to depict sites which are “exceptional” “include own search engine”, “in additional language to English” and “text only version available”. Other chapters include search engines and basics on how to search, state by state and international agencies(web-sites), newsgroups and mailing lists, journals and news resources, and finally phone contact information for a variety of organizations including RADAR and Department of Education training centers. The glossary gives good descriptive definitions and a subject index to the web sites is a plus. Overall, my one critique of the work, is that the “mailing lists for professionals” section left out most of the major addiction focused resources. This is in part due to the fact that the chapter on news groups and mailing lists was reprinted from Dr. Grohol’s Mental Health page, which is predominantly psychology and psychiatry. Overall however, this publication is a valuable print tool to guiding Internet users in their pursuit of mental health and addictions information.


This 23 page guide offers a quick overview of the tool and components of the Internet - listservs, usenet, web, commercial online services, BBS's, gopher, FTP & telnet, and then provides addresses to approximately 140 web sites with short, sometimes cryptic, one sentence descriptions. The latter are organized under broad categories such as “National Resources”, “Alcohol” “Drugs”, “Tobacco”, AIDS and safe sex, parenting, criminal justice, Government-Local-State (these are Minnesota resources), Federal, special populations - African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, elderly, low income, etc. A useful starting place for web newbies and a handy reference source. For $5.00 it can’t be beat.

Periodical News

“Gangs, Drugs, and Violence” is the special issue of Free Inquiry, Vol. 24, No. 2, November 1996.


NIAAA’s Alcohol and Health Report to Congress is due out this summer. All full members of SALIS will automatically receive a copy.

New NIDA Monographs
(All SALIS Full Members should have already received these two monographs. See Government Documents / Fugitive Literature for full citation)

No. 172 Treatment of Drug-Dependent Individuals with Comorbid Mental Disorders. 1997.

Member News:

• Better Reimer is moving from RADAR to CCSA
• Matt Velucci is leaving DISCUS.
• Lorna McKenzie is leaving the Centre for Education & Information on Drug & Alcohol
• Eva Goldman is leaving the California Dept. Of Alcohol & Drug Program
New Books


Government Documents / Fugitive Literature


Finn, Peter. *Preventing Alcohol-related Problems on Campus: Substance-free Residence Halls.* [Bethesda, MD?]: Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention, [1996?].


Henderson, Marion, Graeme Hutcheson, and John Davies. *Alcohol and the Workplace.* Copenhagen: World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe, 1996.


CSAP Substance Abuse Resource Guide Series. 1996
For more information, write to NCADI, P.O. Box 2345, Rockville, MD 20847-2345.

- Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.
- Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers.
- Violence.
- Hispanic / Latino Americans.
- African Americans.
(Message From the Chair Continues...)  

heard of a research centre without some sort of library? We are fortunate that this is the case, as I believe this keeps us in business, but it points to a major misconception among those who allocate resources for information - the public needs pamphlets, the researchers need research libraries, but all the groups in between such as social workers, nurses, doctors, teachers can be forgotten. Their information needs will be met through professional associations, journals, etc. Is this enough, especially when it comes to particular specialty areas such as addictions? And what about policy makers? They can just hire consultants whom they assume know where to find the information needed. Have you ever found yourself confronted by a consultant in your library who doesn't even know where to begin on a topic? I have, too frequently.

At the annual SALIS conference in Vancouver, one of the speakers related to me how difficult it is to find resources on substance abuse treatment. I really sympathized with her. I imagine an Ontario without ARF and find it hard to imagine how a social worker in a small northern town would find prevention resources on solvent abuse, or how an addictions counsellor would find information on setting up a group therapy program for women. Maybe she could find information, but it would not be as direct or as fast, nor would she have the selection.

The diversity of our membership at SALIS is reflected in the many patron groups we serve and our strength is that together, we serve all. We are aware of the full range of information services and resources that are necessary within a country, a state or a province for successful AOD education, prevention and treatment. I am afraid in Canada we are beginning to experience a breakdown of these strong networks as the links are weakening. I truly hope this is not an international phenomenon. On a brighter note, recognition of the problem is half the battle and who knows, maybe with the next government........

(News From Canada Continues...)  

News from Alberta  

On a sadder note, Library staff at the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission were informed on March 13th that the University of Lethbridge has been offered a contract to deliver library services to AADAC staff. AADAC recently helped the University develop an Addictions Counselling degree program, and decided to expand this collaborative partnership. The collection will be transferred in July, and the University Library will start reference services in September.

Library staff have been offered other positions in AADAC. I will temporarily provide information services to the

Resource Development and Marketing Unit. As noted above, Bette is moving to the national addictions scene where her many skills can be more widely appreciated.

My apologies to other Canadian regions for not contacting you about your news. Being preoccupied, this publication deadline caught me by surprise. If you are willing to take over as Canadian columnist for this newsletter, please phone me at (403) 422-0182, or e-mail me at Denise.Holmen@gov.ab.ca

(News From the Antopodes Continues...)  

It is now just a little more difficult to maintain that same level of service and hence elicit the same level of commitment. Nevertheless, we have recently completed a proposal for funding to redevelop our library to create a single infobase for mounting on the ADCA (as yet unreleased) home page. I will keep you informed on this.

We also have recently completed a proposal to develop a daily media monitoring service for alcohol and other drug workers across the country. This will be based on a database produced by us which will be sent to any nominated email or fax number each day (before 9.30 am!!!) at no cost. I am not looking forward to this one getting up, but it certainly should prove to be a useful information service.

Staff Changes: Being a SALIS officebearer seems to have some detrimental effect on the desire to work in the ATOD field! Greg Fowler, past Member-at-large and Lorna MacKenzie who is currently in that position, have both moved on to other things. Greg is co-ordinating access to on-line services and databases for a consortium of health libraries in South Australia, and Lorna is working in a totally different field (but no doubt using her considerable information retrieval skills) in a community health setting.

(TOXIBASE on the Web Continues...)  

Bilingual french-english indexation is provided for all records.

Size: 17000 records (1997), 3000 records updated per year.

Updating: monthly

For further information, you can contact toxibase on the following mail: ldtoxibase@ofdt.fr or: TOXIBASE. 14 av. Berthelot. 69007 Lyon. FRANCE. Tel.(33).04.78.72.47.45. Fax.(33).04.72.72.93.44
1997 SALIS Membership List

If your name does not appear on this list and you know you have sent in your SALIS dues by May 1, 1997, please contact SALIS Home at (510) 642-5208; FAX: (510) 642-7175; E-mail: salis@arg.org.

SALIS Officers/ SIG Chairs/ News Editor/ Members at Large
Sheila Lacroix, Chair
Addiction Research Foundation, Library
33 Russell Street
Toronto, Ontario CANADA M5S 2S1
(416) 595-6982 FAX: (416) 595-6601
INTERNET slacroix@arj.org

Barbara J. Settis, Chair-Elect
Indiana Prevention Resource Center
840 State Road, 46 By-pass
Bloomington, IN 47405
(812) 855-1237 FAX: (812) 855-4940
INTERNET settis@indiana.edu

Kathleen A. K. Mullen, Past Chair CSR, Inc.
1400 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20009
(202) 842-7600 FAX: (202) 842-0418
INTERNET kmullen@hs.org

Leigh Hallingby, Secretary
Lindesmith Center /
Open Society Institute
888 Seventh Ave., Suite 2700
New York, NY 10011
(212) 887-0181 FAX: (212) 489-8455
INTERNET lhallingby@losor.org

Tom Colthurst, Treasurer
School of Medicine
Higher Education Center
Addiction Technology Transfer Center,
University of California (DTTC)
565 Pearl Street, Suite 304
La Jolla, CA 92037
(619) 551-2951 FAX: (619) 551-2948
INTERNET tcotthurst@ucsd.edu

Andrea Mitchell, Executive Director
SALIS News Editor
Alcohol Research Group
2000 Hearst Ave., Suite 300
Berkeley, CA 94709-2176
(510) 642-5208 FAX: (510) 642-7175
INTERNET ambtchel@arg.org

Peter McCormack, Australian SIG
Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of
Australia
PO Box 2
Woden, ACT 260, AUSTRALIA
61 6 281 082 FAX 61 6 281 0995
INTERNET petermc@saada.org.au

Denise Holmen, Canadian SIG Chair
Alberta Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission
10909 Jasper Ave., #200
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3M9 Canada
(403) 427-7703 FAX: (403) 427-2352
INTERNET denise.holmen@gov.ab.ca

R.P. Kumar,
South East Asian SIG Chair
B.B. Dikshit Library
All India Institute of Medical Sciences
Ansari Nagar, New Delhi 110 029
INDIA
(11) 661-123 FAX: (11) 668-2663

Sharon Crockett,
Multi-Cultural SIG Chair
Tennessee Alcohol and Drug Association
Statewide Clearinghouse
545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 404
Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 244-7066 FAX: (615) 255-3704

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

George Marcelle
Social and Health Service, LTD.
1680 N. Vine Street, Suite 724
Los Angeles, CA 90028
(213) 463-6822 FAX: (213) 463-9492

Andrew W. Milwid
Elks Drug Awareness Program
246 Beaver Point
Dadeville, AL 36863
(205) 825-4690 FAX: (205) 825-4422
INTERNET amilwid@worldnet.att.net

Carla Rouge
Institut Suisse de Prophylaxie de l'Alcoolisme, Librairy
P.O. Box 870
CH-1000 Lausanne, SWITZERLAND
021 320 29 21 FAX: 021 323 19 30
INTERNET iapa-sfa@mail.vtx.ch

Nancy Sutherland
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute
University of Washington
3937 15th Avenue, NE N-15
Seattle, WA 98105-6696
(206) 543-0937 FAX: (206) 543-5473
INTERNET adaihlib@u.washington.edu

(404) 752-1531 FAX: (404) 752-1049
INTERNET beverly@msm.edu

Mary Pat Angelini, Executive Director
Substance Abuse Resources, Inc.
1606 Highway 35
Oakhurst, NJ 07755
(908) 663-1800 FAX: (908) 663-1698
INTERNET ncrdd@moonmouth.com

Diane Augustino, Research Scientist I
Research Institute on Addictions
1021 Main Street, Rm. 306
Buffalo, NY 14203-1016
(716) 887-2997 FAX: (716) 887-2477
INTERNET augustin@ria.org

Beverly H. Bowles, Director of the LRC
SARC/UMAB - School of Social Work
525 W. Redwood St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 706-5194 FAX: (410) 706-6046
bbowles@ssw2.ab.umd.edu

Librarian
Anheuser-Busch Co., Inc.
Corporate Library
Box 1828 Bechtold Station
St. Louis, MO 63118-0828
(314) 577-3492 FAX: (314) 577-2006

Jean M. Brennan, Librarian Services Director
Hutzel Hospital
Medical Library
4707 St. Antoine
Detroit, MI 48201
(313) 745-7178 FAX: (313) 993-0152
INTERNET brennanj@mc.lhmu.mi.us

Percy Brown, RADAR Coordinator
Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention
Arkansas Department of Health
5800 W. 10th Street, Suite 907
Little Rock, AR 72204
(501) 280-4506 FAX: (501) 280-4519
pbrrown@mail.doh.state.ar.us

Richard G. Burns, Author
Good Book Publishing Company
Box 959
Kline, HI 96753-0958
(808) 874-4876 FAX: (808) 874-4876
INTERNET dickb@dickb.com

Mrs. Suchada Chothakanont,
Head Librarian
The Library
Faculty of Medicine
Chiang Mai University
110 Intavaro Road
Amphur Muang, Chiang Mai 50200
THAILAND
66-035-945201 FAX: 66-035-217144
mdx.x003@cmu.chiangmai.ac.th

Audrey Christie, Library Manager
Health Education Unit
Faculty of Education
Building A35, #328
University of Sydney
Sydney, NSW 2006, AUSTRALIA
(61) 2 9383-6243 FAX: (61) 2 9383-7056
healthed@edfac.usyd.edu.au

Bill Cohen, President & Publisher
Haworth Press, Inc.
49 West 9th Street
New York, NY 10011
(212) 477-5277 FAX: (212) 477-6598

Eva Congreve, Librarian
Natural and Drug Alcohol Research Centre
University of South Wales
Sydney, NSW 2052, AUSTRALIA
(61) 2 9383-9333 FAX: (61) 2 9383-7143
INTERNET ndarc@unsy.edu.au

Ruth Marie Connolly, Coordinator IADIS
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
Organization of American States
1809 F Street, NW, Rm. 845-HC
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 458-3809 FAX: (202) 458-3658
INTERNET connolly_ruth@oas.org

Cynthia Crompton, Manager
Alcohol and Drug Information Referral Service
200 - 3102 Main Street
Vancouver, British Columbia V5T 3G7, CANADA
(604) 875-6381 FAX: (604) 660-9415

Jeffrey H. Dennis, Director
Drug Action Service
P.O. Box N-1965
Nassau, N.P. , BAHAMAS
242 328 7052 242 328 7030

Chris Dubbs, Research Librarian
Pennsylvania Substance Abuse and Health Information Center
652 West 17th Street, Columbus Square
Erie, PA 16502
(814) 459-0245 FAX: (814) 453-4714
INTERNET pensubac@erie.net

John Foy, Librarian
National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information
PO Box 2345
Rockville, MD 20847-2345
(301) 468-2500 FAX: (301) 468-6433
INTERNET jfoy@health.org

1997 MEMBERS:

Joan Alexander, Resource Librarian
Council on Chemical Abuse
Berks County Services Center
633 Court Street, Floor #12
Reading, PA 19601
(610) 376-8669 FAX: (610) 376-8423
INTERNET cocca@talon.net

Beverly E. Allen, Director
Morehouse School of Medicine
500 Waters Avenue, SW
Atlanta, GA 30310-1495

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Editor: Andrea Mitchell
Internet: amitchell@arg.org
Alcohol Research Group
2000 Hearst Ave., Suite 300
Berkeley, CA 94709

Desktop Publishing: Tim Nguyen
Internet: tnguyen@arg.org

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

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