SUBSTANCE ABUSE
LIBRARIANS &
INFORMATION SPECIALISTS
NEWSLETTER

THE INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUG LIBRARIANS & INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

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SALIS CONFERENCE REPORT
Percy Brown, SALIS Chair-Elect
Arkansas Department of Health

The 19th Annual International Conference of the Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists was held at the Little Rock Hilton Inn October 19-22. The theme of the Conference was: Information Technology: The Threshold of Twenty-First Century Communication.

In keeping with the theme, more than 90% of the planning was done via e-mail and other electronic implements. The conference provided a unique opportunity to visit the home of U. S. President Bill Clinton and sample the warm hospitality of Arkansas. Many of the participants rented cars and visited Hot Springs and other surrounding cities.

The forty delegates represented seventeen states and three countries, and such prestigious organizations as Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), NIAAA, National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug information (NCADI), Rutgers University, University of Indiana, Alcohol Research Foundation of Canada, TOXIBASE of France, Alcohol Research Group.

After a gracious welcome by Dr. Sandra B. Nichols, Director of the Arkansas Department of Health, Dr. Karen Ballard of The Mid South Center at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock gave a stimulating Keynote address which galvanized the body to almost immediate action which resulted in partnership development and some funding results within days after the conference.

The workshops and presentations dealt with concerns of the very young, pregnant and parenting substance abusing women and their dilemma, the dangers of the legally protected, but highly abused drug of alcohol, manipulation of data from national data bases, international research on drugs and combination of drugs, substance abuse issues in the Gay and Lesbian communities, television network use for recovery issues, the names and classification of drugs, and the selection of educational material.

One of the highlights of the conference was the presentation by Mr. John Delaney of New York who dealt with a particularly sticky topic "Copyright laws and the Internet." This topic was of great interest in as much as the Internet has become one of the most useful tools in the realm of information dissemination. The uncertainty surrounding the application of current copyright laws created a lack of confidence in the transmission of data. The Librarians certainly want to avoid sending information that would result in a lawsuit for the recipient. Mr. Delaney's presentation was extremely insightful and of great benefit for the delegates.

With special events of Arkansas Lore by Steve Kelsey, and a tour of the new Main Library, the mixture of business and pleasure provided a rich experience for the delegates. The next conference is scheduled to be held in Los Angeles, CA. Hosted by Tom Colhurst and George Marcelle.
Conference Report and Looking Forward to 1999 -- from the Chair

Barbara Seitz de Martinez, SALIS Chair
Indiana Prevention Resource Center

Looking back at SALIS 1997, I see Percy's face and the smiles of SALIS members who experienced a most enjoyable and informative conference in Little Rock. Surely I'll remember the cordiality and tranquility of Little Rock for many years. Thanks to all who participated, I learned so much at the various sessions and in the informal meetings that took place over lunches and dinners and at the side of the pool. In decades to come, Little Rock will be cited as the place where a new and exciting relationship between SALIS and ELISAD memberships was formally proposed!

Speaking of the future, since I am involved in planning the April 1999 SALIS conference in Bloomington, Indiana, I think it is not too soon to raise questions and solicit input. Comparing the conference to a sculpture, it should have the most aesthetically pleasing shape and texture, where shape has to do with structure, and texture has to do with personal interaction. The outer shape of the conference will be its overall layout, the timing and positioning of events, as on a flow-chart. The texture will be the built-in opportunities, formal and informal, for personal dialogue, discussions, debate, and, yes, celebration of our identity, our growth, our struggles and achievements.

What would you like to see happen at future conferences? What would be meaningful for you? What topics would you like to see addressed? What additional services would you like to see offered? Would it be useful, for example, to have a special session for persons new to the field of substance abuse where a panel of SALIS members with 5 or 10 years or more of experience answer questions and offer advice to those just getting started in jobs that demand substance abuse information expertise?

Can you think of projects or activities or committees that do not now exist but that you would find enjoyable, useful or otherwise worthwhile? These could either be ideas for future conference gatherings or to be part of the year-round activities of SALIS.

One such idea that comes to mind has to do with mentoring within our profession. Would there be interest in creating a listing of SALIS members who would offer to serve as mentors to other SALIS members who are either new to SALIS, to the field of substance abuse information, or to an area of technology or programming (perhaps a new job assignment) where others in SALIS have greater experience. These mentoring relationships could be something associated with conferences, or more generally.

Another idea would involve surveying the membership to see what areas of interest people have and then to brainstorm ways to create groups based on those interests. Then there are so many different ways those groups could be activated! The groups could be the basis of some fun activities at the conference's opening reception. And/or the groups could be the basis for seating at one luncheon during the conference, allowing certain tables to be designated for that purpose. Or perhaps team research projects, e.g., curricula development or evaluation, could be an outcome.

I realize that our list-serve fulfills many functions and meets many needs. Perhaps it renders superfluous the ideas mentioned above, at least for the periods between conferences, or perhaps not. What is your opinion? SALIS belongs to you! Please help us make it work for you and for our profession!

* Group photo by Jo-Anne Lauzer

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Just bring in I New Member and SALIS will expand its Membership and Network! Thank you very much.
Canadian SIG Report -- "I'm Big on Little Rock, Eh!"

Jo-Anne Lauter, M.Ed.
Prevention Source BC

Now let's see if my memory serves me correct..."Ah'm fix'n to go, youant?" Learning to speak Southern was not my only accomplishment from the SALIS Conference in Little Rock, but it was certainly a highlight. As was hearing Tom sing Proud Mary, eating blackened catfish and touring the Capital! Not to mention having the opportunity to gather excellent information and finally meeting so many of the faces behind the Email addresses. I feel rather privileged to be part of this incredible network.

However, it was also a little disappointing to have such a small contingent from Canada. This was indicative of the financial cutbacks occurring nationally and provincially within the alcohol and drug field. Services ranging from libraries and prevention to treatment are all being impacted. However not all change is necessarily bad. I will try to present an overview of what is happening with some of the SALIS membership in Canada.

The Addiction Research Foundation is currently working through the logistics of their merge with the Clarke Institute and two other mental health services in Toronto, Ontario. According to Sheila Lacroix this process should be complete by the end of January 1998. At this point Sheila is confident that the library will continue providing services within the addictions field with fewer changes. Although the four agencies will all be under one umbrella organization, each will keep its own corporate name and continuity of services will be maintained. More information about the merge can be found on their website — www.arf.org.

The Canadian Council on Smoking and Health has recently undergone a name change which has also affected their web site address. They are now known as the Canadian Council on Tobacco Control (CCTC) and their new website address is www.cctc.ca and the National Clearinghouse on Tobacco and Health can now be found at www.cctc.ca/ntch. Jill Austin, manager of Information Services of Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) is pleased to announce that Bette Reimer (formerly from AADAC library) has replaced Margo Hawley as the Information Specialist, and she can be reached at breimer@ccsa.ca. Also, Karen Palmer (kpalmer@ccsa.ca) is now the FAS Information Specialist and she has taken over Carole Julien's position. The CCSA has recently received a special grant of nearly $300,000 from Health Canada which will facilitate the development of an enhanced clearinghouse operation. Their website contains a variety of excellent documents from the field as well as links to other key sites www.ccsa.ca.

AADAC (Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission) has recently entered into a partnership with the University of Lethbridge, Alberta. As a result, the library collection was transferred to the University of Lethbridge over the summer and began providing service to AADAC staff in September. Denise Holmen continues her position as an Information Specialist with AADAC; however, her role and responsibilities have changed. She can be reached at denise.holmen@aadac.gov.ab.ca. AADAC has also revised their website to include a great deal of excellent information www.gov.ab.ca/~aadac. As for Prevention Source BC, we have been fortunate to secure some extra funding from our Tobacco Reduction Strategy (TRS) and will be hiring a new information specialist to deal with tobacco issues. Currently in British Columbia there is a lot going on with tobacco reduction and we are excited to be a part of the process. More information on the TRS can be found on our web site, which is currently being updated www.preventionsource.bc.ca. BC has also recently released an excellent tobacco survey; results can be viewed at www.hlth.gov.bc.ca. And if you are looking for an interesting tobacco site for young people, check out www.tobaccofacts.org created by our provincial government.

Please let me know of any other changes going on with the Canadian membership.

Joannel@preventionsource.bc.ca
ELISAD Meets in Torino

Andrea Mitchell
Alcohol Research Group

The European Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and Drugs, (ELISAD) held its 9th annual meeting November 20-22 in Torino, Italy. Hosted by the Gruppo Abele, the sight of the conference could not have been more beautiful. High above Torino in the hills surrounding, we were housed in an old convent, with horse chestnut trees dotting the landscape, still retaining some of their magnificent golden leaves, and a view of the Victorian city below.

Approximately 40 persons were in attendance, representing most of the Europeans countries. Multi cultural and multi-lingual is a feature which so positively characterized this group and this meeting. While English and Italian were the languages spoken for presentation (with simultaneous translation), French, Spanish, Portuguese, Norwegian, Finnish, Swedish and Dutch could be heard at various coffee breaks and during meals.

The theme of this conference, "Information and Prevention : Dissemination of Information on the Prevention of Addictions," brought focus to several sessions including, "Needs of Information of Prevention Professionals ", "National and International Information Strategies, and "Media and Experiences in the Field". Speakers from WHO, Gruppo Abele, and EUROCARE, described the goals and activities of their organizations with respect to the information components, while other presenters detailed more of the practical realities of creating information systems to function in the every day environment. Included in the latter was the EDDRA European Drug Demand Reduction Database (a database of programs) created by EMCDDA, (Portugal); the Trimbos Institute (Netherlands) Database of AOD University Training Programs; TNO's Documentation Centre on Alcohol (Netherlands); the Drug Abuse Prevention Database from IDEA Prevencion (SPAIN); the database of the Norwegian Directorate on "small community based grass-roots experiences in prevention"; the information activities and database of the Gruppo Abele (Italy), and a Video/Film Database of the Drugs and Images Network (France). On a different note, there were presentations on "Alco-Pops" from the UK, "Web Addictions", and "Helplines" from the European Foundation of Helplines. Chair of ELISAD, Marianne Van der Heijden organized an open workshop session on "What are the Roles and Tasks of Information Professionals?". Highly interactive, this session gave opportunity for more informal discussion and debate.

Adhering to the theme, I presented a paper concerning ETOH and the AOD Thesaurus, entitled “ETOH for Alcohol Prevention Information: Research, Practice and Evaluation”. Representing SALIS, I also attended the ELISAD Board meeting on Thursday afternoon, and raised issues from the SALIS Board Meeting concerning SALIS/ELISAD collaboration, membership discounts for belonging to both organizations, and future plans for a combined meeting.

NOTE: Thomas Rouault of ToriBase, will host the tenth annual ELISAD conference in Paris, in Nov 1998

Report on SALIS Conference

Thomas Rouault
TOXIBASE - France

The theme of the conference was "Information Technology: the Threshold of 21st Century Communications." Very large topic with various communications on many subjects, both technical and on the recent trends of the AOD field: internet and copyright law (in USA); use of web technology at the Indiana Resource Center; care approach to services available to families afflicted by maternal addiction; issues of prevention in the pre-school population; presentation of PREVline (web site of the NCADI); presentation of the CDC web site WONDER (mapping information on epidemiology); evolution of the AOD thesaurus; selecting educational materials for prevention, etc.

On the behalf of ELISAD I made two presentations: The first one at the SALIS business meeting about the European community programmes and their link with information/documentation function; the second during the conference about the European REITOX distributed database project, supported by the EMCDDA.

More than 40 persons attended the conference in a very friendly, warm but very professional mood... many cultural discoveries and entertainment were made possible due to the gentle host of the conference, Percy Brown SALIS chair-elect (1999 Chair).

- SALIS has 142 members (112 full members; 21 associate; 6 institutional, 3 sponsorship), few of them are Europeans.
- 111 persons are registered on the SALIS list server , open only to Full members.

Next conferences are planned to take place: in August 98 Los Angeles; spring 99 at the Indiana Prevention Resource Center, (Bloomington), whom head of the center is Barbara Seitz de Martinez the new SALIS chair for 1998, replacing Sheila Lacroix from Addiction Research Foundation. So, from 1999 SALIS could have its regular conferences in spring, making it more feasible for ELISAD or SALIS members to attend both conferences.

The SALIS-ELISAD liaison was discussed in the board meeting where I was very kindly invited. The following proposals have been discussed and must be presented to the ELISAD board and business meeting:

✦ To maintain and strengthen mutual representation in ELISAD and SALIS conferences as has been managed since 1994. Expenses should be managed by each association. SALIS Executive Director, Andrea Mitchell (Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley), will represent SALIS at ELISAD 97.
✦ Board representatives in each association
✦ Special common "membership fee" for those who want to register to both associations.
✦ Web sites links: SALIS website address - http://www.his.com/~kmullen/salis/salis.htm

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This new SALIS News column will feature "Websights" relevant to information professionals in the substance abuse field. The column will be a place for all of us to exchange information, so please feel free to contact me with Websites that you have found useful or have always wanted to know more about.

Our first column will feature the Office on Smoking and Health's Smoking and Health Database, located at http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/osh/search/index.htm. (For those outside the United States, the Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) is the division, in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), responsible for leading and coordinating strategic efforts aimed at preventing tobacco use). The Smoking and Health Database began originally in 1967 as the 'Bibliography on Smoking and Health.' Although the print version ceased publication after issuing the 1992-1993 volume, the database was available via Dialog from 1987-1994. In 1994 a CD-ROM was created and available via the Superintendent of Documents (SALIS News Fall 1994, p. 4). A new CD-ROM has just been released and details are at the end of this article. In late 1997 OSH made the database searchable on the Web. Overall the Web search interface for the Smoking and Heath Database is user-friendly with the capability of searching for multiple terms within and between fields. It is a good effort to provide an interface that is simple enough for most end-users, but sophisticated enough to allow for selected advanced searching techniques.

Since the database has only been on the Web for a couple of months, I have not had an opportunity to search the database exhaustively. Therefore, this review is based on my initial explorations. I supplemented my online experimentation by clarifying many of my questions about the database and the interface with the OSH's project staff.

Containing more than 56,000 records, from mainly early 60's forward, this bibliographic database is vast in scope, covering the scientific, technical, social science, policy, legal, and historical literature related to smoking and tobacco use. I have been searching the database on CD-ROM for several years and have found it useful when searching for the obscure document, or for broader topics, especially of a historical nature. But users should take note: currency is not a strength of this database. Records for documents published pre-1993 comprise the bulk of the file. However, as mentioned previously, it is still impressive for its breadth in older years, so still worth a trip, depending on the nature of your search.

Like most Web database platforms, the search interface is menu-driven. This design allows end users to perform simple searches and sophisticated users to perform more advanced searches. To begin a search, users must select between a Basic and Advanced Search Screen. The difference between the screens is mostly a matter of the fields you can search. The Basic Search Screen allows users to search the basic fields (title, author, abstract, date, etc.) and the Advanced Search Screen includes the basic fields plus other fields, such as document type and language. In addition, the Advanced Search Screen has two "user choice" fields, so users can search in the same field simultaneously for more complex searching.

Users are given many options to refine a search:

- Similar to other Web databases, users can select Boolean operators from "pull-down boxes" to specify how the fields should be combined in a search. I was tripped up a number of times because the default setting to combine the fields is "OR," which searches for either one field or another. For most of my searches, I prefer to "AND" the fields, so I found it cumbersome to change the default setting for each search.
- Boolean operators can also be used within fields, by typing the commands in the field search prompts. Unfortunately the software does not allow for nested searches and the use of different Boolean operators in a field. It is suggested that the searcher use the "user choice fields" in the Advanced Search Screen to develop more complicated search strings between fields.
- The search interface also allows users to specify "search conditions" within a field. The "search conditions" can define proximity between search terms, order of terms, and phrase searching. Search conditions seem like a means to provide "Boolean operator searching" to end users who do not know the commands, as two of the "search conditions" are "contains all" and "contains any."

There is no explanation in the online help of how the three methods of refining a search work together. But from my experimenting, it looks like what a user types in a field will override a selected "search condition" if there is a possible conflict.

In addition to the search capabilities, the Web version of the Smoking and Health Database offers other useful features for the searcher:

- Two options for truncation are available. A question mark can be used to replace one character in a word and an asterisk replaces one or more characters.
- Users can define a field to sort the displayed set of records.
- Users have a choice in how to display records. One can view a list which displays only titles or view either a single full record or a set of full records.
- Navigation between single records and sets of records is simple.

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Highlights of the SALIS General Meetings
19th Annual SALIS Conference
Little Rock Hilton Hotel, Little Rock, Arkansas

Sheila LaCroix, chair, presided at the first meeting on Sunday, October 19, 1997.
Barbara Seitz de Martinez, incoming chair, presided at the second meeting on Tuesday, October 21, 1997

1. Home Office Report, by Andrea Mitchell, Executive Director
Andrea would welcome the assistance of anyone working on soliciting advertisements for the SALIS News. Also, more information is needed in the newsletter about websites, including an editor for the column. Protocol is needed on the listserv for reference questions, such as people including in their message what they have already done.

2. Membership report from Leigh Hallingby,
Secretary/Membership Chair

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This represents a total of 142 members. 1996 membership was 152.

3. Directory
To reduce some of the costs of producing the Directory, plans are underway to make the questionnaire available by the SALIS List or through the SALIS Website, and perhaps even through other List groups. More listings for alcohol history and tobacco collections are needed.

4. SALIS Brochure
It needs to be updated. SALIS Home has done as much as it can. Tressa Youngbear offered the services of a volunteer to do this.

5. European Librarians and Information Specialists on Alcohol and Drugs (ELISAD)
Thomas Rouault of Toxibase (France) gave a report on the Association: ELISAD has been in existence for 10 years and has pages on the Trimbos Institute (Netherlands Institute on Mental Health and Addiction) website. Their listserv has been functioning for a year and messages are most often in English. Action projects to the European Monitoring Center on Drugs and Drug Abuse (EMCDDA) are being presented by ELISAD. Closer ties with SALIS over the past several years with SALIS members attending ELISAD meetings and vice versa...
ELISAD does not have an up-to-date directory. Thomas suggested that ELISAD and SALIS might want to combine efforts on a directory.

6. Treasurer’s Report from Tom Colthurst, Treasurer
SALIS is solvent and up-to-date with the reporting obligations of being a 501(C)(3). SALIS’s net worth of $28,000 is about the same as last year. Tom is in his sixth and final year of being Treasurer and is shifting bookkeeping to the SALIS home office. He will be the overseer of these activities.

7. New Officers were announced: Chair-Elect, Percy Brown; Secretary, Samantha Helfert; Members at Large: Nancy Kendall, George Marcelle, Peter McCormack

8. SIGs (Special Interest Groups) and Committee Reports
The Regional Alcohol and Drug Awareness Resource (RADAR) Network meeting report was given by Barbara Seitz de Martinez. There is enthusiasm for a possible combined meeting of RADAR and SALIS in 1998. (NOTE There will be a SALIS 1998 conference per announcement on front page of this issue.) There was much discussion about technology in the RADAR meeting, including appropriate training, involvement of those who do not have up-to-date access to technology, use of listservs, etc.

Jo-Anne Lauzer, Sheila LaCroix, and Colin Mangham gave a report from the Canadian SIG: A lot of cut-backs are going on in Canada, having impact on both libraries, and alcohol and drugs issues. National Addictions Awareness Week is coming up in November in Canada. The Addiction Research Foundation, which has been in existence for 25 years, is currently involved in a merger with a large, psychiatric teaching hospital. The new entity will be called Mental Health and Addictions Corporation. Canada has never adopted the War on Drugs type of strategy that the United States has, and the most recent campaign against drug abuse has officially ended. The new emphasis is on family violence, and prevention of substance abuse problems is being de-emphasized. As a result, those in the drug field in Canada have to rethink prevention.

Nancy Sutherland reported on the meeting of the Technology Committee, which she chairs. There are ca. 120 SALIS members out of ca. 145 are now on the listserv. Website issues were the major focus of the meeting. It was decided to go with a host that offers a higher level of service for a bit more cost. A number of documents on the current SALIS website prepared by Kathleen Mullen, could be moved to the new site. Possibly older issues of SALIS News or selections from the current edition will be put on the web site. It was agreed that most likely the entire SALIS directory will not go on the site. There will be a limited number of links, with emphasis on high quality.

10. Future conferences
In 1999, SALIS will meet in Bloomington, IN, hosted by Barbara Seitz de Martinez. A theme is needed for the conference. New York is a tentative site for the year 2000 conference, hosted by Leigh Hallingby from the Lindesmith Center and David Man from CASA.

Respectfully submitted, Leigh Hallingby, Secretary
Highlights of the SALIS Executive Board Meetings
19th Annual SALIS Conference
Sunday, October 19, and Tuesday, October 21, 1997
Little Rock Hilton Hotel, Little Rock, Arkansas

1. Report from the Chair, Sheila LaCroix
   ♦ SALIS sent a letter supporting the Canadian Center on Substance Abuse.
   ♦ The listserve has been very successful and helpful in pulling the group together.
   ♦ The highlight of the year for Sheila was attending the meeting of the editors of substance abuse journals in Farmington, Connecticut, organized by Griffith Edwards, editor of Addiction. (See SALIS News Vol 17 No. 2, 1977.) She noted that this was a great opportunity for SALIS to make a contribution.

2. SALIS Home Report, Andrea Mitchell, Executive Director
   The new staff member, Wendy Wang, is a great asset to the organization. She is very interested in marketing SALIS. She is also studying website construction and has ideas about how to improve the site. In May, Andrea attended a meeting at Brown University on historical collections on alcohol. The Chester Kirk Foundation bought the Charles Bishop collection for Brown University. Dr. David Lewis of Brown is interested in SALIS and the directory, and possibly providing funds to get this project underway. Decisions need to be made about whether to publish the directory electronically and/or in hard copy. Due to governance problems with the ICAA (International Council on Alcohol and the Addictions), it was decided that SALIS temporarily remove its affiliation with the group.

3. Executive Director
   Tom Colthurst proposed that the Executive Director be paid to raise funds for SALIS and to promote the organization. It was moved and seconded that an amount of $5,000 from the reserve fund be set aside, with a rate to be determined by a subcommittee consisting of the Treasurer, the immediate past chair and the current chair.

4. Special Interest Groups and Committees
   The Canadian SIG, chaired by Jo-Anne Lauzer, is active and has members present in Little Rock. The Australian SIG, chaired by Peter McCormack, is active but has no members present. The Southeast Asian SIG is inactive. The Multicultural SIG is in question, but no members are present. The Technology Committee, chaired by Nancy Sutherland, is active and will be meeting during the conference.

5. Treasurer's report from Tom Colthurst
   Tom has dropped the services of the outside bookkeeper and is shifting the bookkeeping to the SALIS Home office. SALIS has a net worth of $28,000. This means that more than one year's operating expenses are in the bank. The annual budget is about $20,000. The Conference is typically the biggest item of the year (ca. $10,000), and payroll is next.

   SALIS has a healthier financial situation, even with fewer members now, due to an increase in dues two years ago. There were only three applications for conference scholarships this year, and two awards were made.

   Tom is now in the middle of his third term (sixth year), as Treasurer, and has one year to go. He will not be running for re-election next year.

   Leigh raised the possibility of piggybacking with other organizations for conferences. Nancy Sutherland said that mental health librarians are one group SALIS could possibly team up with for future conferences. George spoke of the hazards of teaming up with a large organization that can easily swallow up a small organization like SALIS.

   The ELISAD meeting is in the fall, and so there is an advantage to SALIS meeting in the spring as it will in 1999 so that some people can go to both meetings.

7. SALIS Membership Categories
   There was a discussion of a joint SALIS/ELISAD membership, in which case SALIS would extend membership on the listserve to ELISAD members. SALIS needs to get feedback from ELISAD about what they would be willing to offer to SALIS members.

8. Winter Meeting
   Andrea suggests having a winter Board meeting in January or February of 1998 for a day and a half in Berkeley, partly because there will be no conference in 1998. This meeting would include long-range planning.

   Sheila will work with Lynn Shipley, with input from the rest of the Board, to get the manual completed by February 1, 1998.

Respectfully submitted, Leigh Hallingby, Secretary

* For a copy of the full minutes, contact Leigh Hallingby, SALIS past Secretary or SALIS Home.
Conference Report - World Wide Web Tour
Sheila Lacroix
Addiction Research Foundation

Many of the talks this year showcased or alluded to web resources invaluable to the AOD information professional. For the benefit of those of you who were either unable to attend the conference or who were unable to attend a concurrent session, here is a brief recap. I hope I haven't left any out!

The REITOX Distributed Bibliographic Database URL: http://www.ofdt.fr/reitox65/. It's always a delight to have at least one of our European colleagues at the conference for an update on European activity. Thomas Rouault, the director of Toxibase in France, presented on REITOX (European Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction), a challenging project that combines access to AOD databases from the various European partners under one multi language searchable interface. It is co-ordinated by EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drug and Drug Addiction, Lisbon). The other core partners are ISDD (UK), TOXIBASE (France) and TRIMBOS (Netherlands). The REITOX database access, developed on the OFDT (Observatoire Francais des Drogues et des Toxicomanies) web site, is still in the test phase. As you can imagine, it is an immense project with many technical challenges. I urge you to visit this site, read about this amazing project, try a search and monitor the site periodically as the project progresses. The database includes that hard-to-find literature like government policy reports.

IPRC (Indiana Prevention Resource Centre) URL: http://www.iprc.edu Showcased by Barbara Seitz de Martinez, this is an example of a great site that you should all bookmark. I frequently use the Street Drug Slang dictionary. Another unique feature is the Drug Photo Menu accessible through the Prevention for Professionals page, and there are links to fact sheets on just about every abused drug imaginable. The IPRC has always been at the cutting edge of using technology in AOD prevention and education.

PREVLINE URL: http://www.health.org The NCADI and family sites came up more than once at the conference and must be highlighted. PREVLINE has information and resources on national prevention campaigns, key US statistical reports, information for the public for educational or self-help purposes, etc. etc. etc., as well as hosting the on-line RADAR network. It provides an easy link to databases, such as the US national treatment directory, and to ETOH on the NIAAA site. ETOH deserves a separate plug. I use it frequently. To use it most effectively, it is recommended that you read the search directions and use the Alcohol and Other Drug Thesaurus to select the appropriate subject headings, as it is a complex database focusing on many unique aspects of alcohol use & abuse.

Lindesmith Drug Policy Research Institute. URL: //www.lindesmith.org Leigh Hallingby's talk focused on the classification system of the Lindesmith library, but it should be brought to your attention that this unique and excellent collection can be searched at the Lindesmith web site. Not only can the library catalogue be searched, but an on-line full text library is also available. And, last but not least, CDC WONDER URL: http://wonder.cdc.gov Andrea Mitchell showcased CDC's (Centers for Disease Control) WONDER health information and communications system providing web access to over 40 text-based and numeric databases. Many contain data and information relevant to the AOD field. Some highlighted by Andrea were FARS (Fatal Accident Reporting System), a source of BAC accident data, and the CDC Tobacco prevention files.

Report on SALIS Conference Continues...

Other reports: SALIS Board made decision to cancel its participation in the ICAA and to remove "ICAA affiliation" from SALIS letterhead. This is due in part to the loss of interest and support given by ICAA; SALIS participated in the first meeting on "Journal Editing in the Addictions" organized by Griffith Edwards, editor in chief of Addiction, in Connecticut, July 97 (a summary of this meeting by Sheila Lacroix is available on the SALIS News Vol.17, No.2 - Summer 1997).

If you want to know more about any of these issues, they remain available on request to me through ELISAD list server:

- SALIS conference 1997 final programme
- Slides about the REITOX distributed database
- Slides about internet and copyright law in the US
- Slides about "a practical guide to establish a database on internet"
- SALIS institutional home report 1997

For me, participating in the SALIS meeting has been a fruitful experience, I learned a lot, had some fun with nice people... and hope to come back if possible in the future.

Membership Dues Are Due

By now, everyone should have received a renewal form for SALIS. Please remember to get your renewal processed by March 31, so that we can list you in the Spring issue of News. Also keep in mind that if we don’t hear from you, your name will be removed from the List Serve.
The Night Before ETOH
Scott D. Newman
CSR, Incorporated

At the 1997 SALIS meeting in Little Rock, AK, Mr. Scott D. Newman presented a paper entitled, “Breathing Life Into Data: Establishing NIAAA’s Database on the Internet.” The presentation illustrated how easy it can be to establish a full-text searchable database on the Internet, and was given from the practitioner’s point of view in layman’s terms. Mr. Newman described the equipment he used and the lessons he learned.

Scott D. Newman has consulted in the Technology Management field for over 15 years. He earned an Executive M.S. in Technology Management from the University of Maryand and a B.A. in Psychology from Dickinson College. This mix of education and experience gives him a unique insight into integrating people and technology. Below is a poem he recited during his session. It illustrates his ability to combine humor and technology in an enjoyable presentation.

Scott’s e-mail address is Mail4SDN@aol.com. Access to the largest alcohol research database in the world (ETOH) is available through the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism’s HomePage: www.niaaa.nih.gov.

The Night Before ETOH

Twas the night before the beta test
And all through the palace
Not a user was searching,
Not even one from SALIS

The data was loaded
On the NT server with care
32 megs of ram
And one Gig hard drive was there

DBTextWorks the engine
DB WebPublisher a layer
O’Reilly Website the platform
Internet Explorer a player

You must know HTML
To get things to work
Or your site will look ugly
Or simply go berserk

The programs were all loaded
On the hard drive with glee
Complex searching of ETOH
Was destined to be FREE!

Not asleep in a kerchief
But a manual in my lap
I settled down at midnight
For a programming spat

When lo from the server
Arose such a clatter
I sprang to the keyboard
To see what was the matter

Away to the system
I flew like a flash
Tore open the case
My server had crashed!

The monitor glowed blue
On this Pentium-pro
I cried "no, not now! It was all set to go"

When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But a programming patch and eight tiny RAMdcer

With a little new driver
So lively and quick
I knew in a moment
This must be a fix

More rapid than reindeer
The new patches they came
I prayed and I tested and installed them by name

Now INMAGIC, now DBTextWorks
Now O’Reilly, now NT
Now Internet browsers
Now some more coffee for me

To the top of the router
And over the fire wall
Now search away, search away, search away all

And after beta testing
I took every response
Re-coded the system
Observing every nuance

New search screens how they twinkled
New reports oh how merry
The results were like roses
The number of hits was quite scary

There still were some crashes
New updates installed
The problems kept coming
But there were workarounds for them all

So on to the web
The searchers they flew
With Boolean operators
And controlled vocabulary too

As the dry code that before
The wild hurricanes fly
When I look back on the process
It was as easy as pie

Within the next two years
Some improvements before us
I plan to install
The AOD thesaurus

I’ve come to my conclusion
Wipe my brow; give a whistle
I hope you’ve enjoyed
This poem-like epistle

Now hear me exclaim
Ere I drive out of sight
Happy searching to all
And to all a good night.

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Periodical News

Drugs & Images is a new newsletter of the European Drugs & Images Network, set up by CECD, European Centre for prevention of drug abuse. This six page publication issued in September and December is the communication medium for those doing prevention with film and video. The first issue includes information on a film and video directory for fifteen countries of the European Union, network members listing, description and evaluation of a new video on ecstasy. Contact Editor Anne Singer, CECD 8 rue Alphonse Karr, 75019 PARIS. Fax: 33-1-40 37 25 43. E-mail: annececd@compuserve.com
Book Review

Geoffrey P. Hunt
Institute for Scientific Analysis, Alameda, CA


"The Urban Pub" was originally published in Finland in 1985. It began as a series of separate chapters, written by each of the individual authors, which were then joined together to form a coherent monograph. Given the fact that the research on which the book is based was conducted in the early 1980's, one might justifiably ask: what relevance can a book, based on research in Finland nearly twenty years ago, have for a contemporary English speaking readership? The answer to this question is quite simple - a great deal. However, the reasons for why this should be are many and they in turn illuminate some of the characteritics of the alcohol research field today.

Research on the pub, the bar or the tavern, in spite of their importance, is still sparse. Although research on alcohol problems, especially in the U.S. has increased tremendously since this book was first published, much of that research has concentrated on alcohol problems and has neglected to investigate the culture of drinking and the arenas in which that drinking takes place. For example, if we examine the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse ETOH database, we find exactly 6 references on this topic since 1990. Consequently, the English publication of "The Urban Pub" which examines in detail the internal workings of two working class pubs is an important contribution to the field. Portrayed within its pages, we view the activities of the regular pub-goers - their dart playing, their relationships, their jokes, the songs they listen to, and their drinking behaviors.

However, unlike many of the existing studies of the pub, the bar or the tavern, this book not merely provides a detailed account of the inner workings, dynamics, rituals and cultural practices of the regulars, it also situates the pub within a wider social context, and attempts to examine the way in which these practices reflect the norms and values of the social groups which frequent the pub. As the authors note, their aim is "...to discover the way in which ... people's relationship to drinking ... are related to the cultural milieu in which local pubs are set". Even the classic work on the English pub "The Pub and the People" or the ground breaking U.S. study "Liquor License" fail to situate their studies within a wider context. Furthermore because this study looks at pubs in two working class suburbs, its findings are still relevant to the present day. Few studies of drinking places and suburbs come to mind. The authors examine the way in which working class culture, and specifically gender relations,

have been modified by the building of the suburbs. They show that far from the suburbs lacking a sense of community, they operate as "moral communities" which exert social control over their residents. These moral communities with their norms and ideals are maintained and fortified by their own antithesis which, in part, is represented by the values and ideals of the pub. The authors examine those elements of pub life which are condemned. For example, residents characterize pub-goers as being "always the same lot" and "welfare scroungers", and they portray the pub as the epitome of untidiness, disorder, aimless conversation and wasted time.

Having documented the external environment within which the pubs operate, the authors then analyze its internal activities. Here the authors bring to their subject an informed sociological and anthropological perspective which examines the drinkers and their public drinking within a social context. Both the darts players in the "Off Duty" pub and the storytellers in the "Juniper" are viewed as social actors, whose drinking behavior is an integral part of a wider working class male culture. Using this perspective the authors view the drinking, and especially drunkenness and intoxication, not as problematic behavior per se, but as meaningful behavior which has to be explained within the social context in which it takes place. This is not to imply that the authors minimize the negative or unproductive consequences which can emanate from this behavior, but instead they provide the reader with an understanding of the drinkers' attitudes and rationale for getting drunk. Unlike so much research in the alcohol field, where drinking and drunken behavior is defined as problematic, this study makes no such assumptions and instead sees the behavior from the perspective of the social actors involved.

Although this study was initially completed nearly 20 years ago, its analysis still exhibits a contemporary feeling. Two features account for this. First, the study examines all forms of cultural practice that operate within the pubs. More specifically, the authors devote one whole chapter to an analysis and discussion of the music played. As the authors note a dominant characteristic of the pubs is noise - "...the clatter of raised voices and the rhythmic racket of the juke-box". In examining the lyrics of the most popular songs played, they analyze the extent to which they express "...cultural points of view which the pub-goers use to analyze their own reality". The four dominant themes found within the lyrics of love, marriage, divorce and loneliness are indicative of the concern that pub-goers seem to express "about emotional relationships between men and women". Given this concern, the authors devote another chapter to examining gender relationships both between men and women within the pubs, and between the pub-goers and their wives, many of whom never visit the pub. This chapter, viewed from the perspective of the women, traces the paradoxes experienced by working class women who live in the suburbs. On the one hand, moving to the suburbs meant that women became independent from their parents, and from other women within their kinship group. On the other hand, although they gained independence, they simultaneously lost the "community" of the

(Continues on page 11)
Video Review

Carolyn Murphy
Prevention First, Incorporated

It's official - the Video ReView is going to pot! For quite a while requests for videos about marijuana were increasing but new videos on the topic weren't plentiful. Some new titles were finally produced though and the following are three of the more recent videos added to our collection.

Marijuana with Delbert Boone
30 minutes, 1997
GWC Productions
530 Falling Spring Road
Cahokia, IL 62206
(800) 851-5406

Filmed at the Chateaugay Alcohol and Substance Abuse Correctional Treatment Facility in New York, the bulk of the video shows Delbert Boone making a presentation to the inmates there. Boone conveys his message in an entertaining way, but does not make light of the seriousness of marijuana's effects on the mind and body. He discusses the differences between the marijuana of the 60's and the more potent marijuana found today. The physiological and psychological effects of the drug are presented in terms that most anyone can understand; the information given is neither too technical nor too general. Interspersed throughout the video are taped segments featuring inmates talking about their experiences with drugs. The video is not glitzy in any way; there aren't computer generated graphics or catchy tunes to keep the viewer occupied. But Delbert Boone doesn't need flashy additions. He does just fine with his low-tech chalkboard and his natural charisma.

My Pot Video: A Teenager's Candid Look at Marijuana Use
17 minutes, 1997
Pyramid Media
2801 Colorado Avenue
Santa Monica, CA 90404
(800) 421-2304

Fictional teenager Mike Morgan is court-ordered to produce a video about marijuana. The result is what he calls My Pot Video. At first Mike is cynical and not too serious about his assignment. He is an occasional user and doubts the claims about marijuana being harmful or addictive. Throughout the process of making the video he learns things that contribute to a reversal in his thinking about the drug. Mike interviews non-users, former users, current users, and an addictions counselor. With each segment the viewer hears and sees that marijuana isn't as non-hazardous as one might think. According to the video jacket the production uses "quick-cut, documentary style techniques" - one a less informed viewer might just call it dizzying. The video's intended audience is people from ages 12 to 18 and the video is certainly filled with images that should hold the attention of teenagers. The interview with the addictions counselor was edited in a way that bombards the viewer with the facts about marijuana at a very fast pace. It might have been better to slow it down a bit and include some age-appropriate scientific explanation regarding marijuana's hazards.

The Truth About Marijuana
20 minutes, 1996
Sunburst Communications
101 Castleton Street
Pleasantville, NY 10570-3498
(800) 431-1934

The Truth About Marijuana is a dramatization of how using marijuana affects a young person's life. Matt starts using marijuana because of family problems. It isn't long before his drug use exacerbates his problems at home and causes a decline in his academic and athletic performances. His older sister discovers his drug use and encourages him to deal with his problems instead of trying to hide from them. That, plus nearly getting kicked off the basketball team helps Matt re-evaluate his situation. He decides to stop smoking marijuana and focus on his studies and sports instead. The video ends with the actor who plays Matt presenting facts about marijuana to the viewer. Audience level: grades 5-9.

(Book Review Continues...)

women which operated in the older working class communities. Life in the suburbs meant that they were now more isolated and consequently more dependent on their husbands. Within this context, some of the women attempted, with greater or lesser degrees of success, to carve out their own arena within the male dominated culture of the pub.

Overall, "The Urban Pub" is a comprehensive account of the social role of pubs within the suburbs. Its account is rich in analytical insight and ethnographic detail, the latter characteristic clearly reflecting the time and depth of research that went into the project. Having said that, I would wish to conclude by noting two criticisms, the first of which is minor, while the second is more substantive. First, although the book generally hangs together as a coherent and integrated account, I did occasionally become aware of the book's origins as a series of separate chapters. Second, although the book succeeds admirably in its task of documenting working class public drinking practices, my one regret is that these drinking practices were not compared with those of the middle class. Yet again social scientists have gone out to uncover the habits of the "lower classes", while ignoring the cultural practices of their own social class. Sociological accounts, and especially those within the alcohol research field, are still too prone to "studying down" and even though the authors are to be commended for producing a sensitive analysis of "the other", they have still confirmed Colin Bell's 1961 remark that: "...the working class are those that the sociologist writes about most but mixes with least...the reverse is unfortunately also true".

* Interested in writing a video review? Contact the column editor Valerie Mead at either (732) 445-5528 or vmead@rci.rutgers.edu

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While there is no defined method to save the records to a file using my browser, I was able to save a set of records as ASCII text and pull the file into a word processing program with all the records intact.

The online help guide, the "1-2-3 Guide to Searching," provides the basic steps to formulating a search plus does a good job explaining the search features and defining terms. Even the different icons, fields and possible error messages are explained. Many of my initial questions about the search interface were answered in this guide.

Like many bibliographic databases, the Smoking and Health Database is a work in progress. As a result there are some factors which are useful to know when searching the database:

- The online help advises that while a thesaurus is used to assign descriptors, some pre-1989 records do not have descriptors. They suggest that while these records are being updated, search for concepts either in the title or abstract fields, in addition to the descriptor field. Note also, that the thesaurus is not currently available to the public.
- The online help describes a "Terms Icon" which links to "an indexed list of valid search terms to assist in developing queries." I was informed that this is a feature in process as I could only find the icon on an error message page. The plan is to replace search tool with an online thesaurus.
- Only recently has data been entered in to the Author Affiliation field.

As a result it might not be useful to search in this field exclusively.

Experienced searchers might notice a similarity between the Smoking and Health Database search screens and NIAAA's ETOH search screens (http://ethn.niaaa.nih.gov). In fact ETOH was used as a model in designing the Smoking and Health Database's search screens, but ETOH and OSH are maintained with different search software programs. ETOH uses the familiar Db/Text WebPublisher (also used by the Lindesmith Center, http://www.lindesmith.org), while the Smoking and Health Database is maintained with BASIS Plus. Keep this in mind because there are some differences in commands and reports. For example, in the Smoking and Health Database, a comma, not a forward slash is the key used for the Boolean operator, "OR." Also the default setting for combining the fields is the Boolean operator "OR" not the "AND" as in ETOH.

In addition to the bibliographic database, OSH maintains CDC's Tobacco Information and Prevention Sourcepage (TIPS) located at http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/. The site provides some of OSH's publications and a compilation of Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports related to smoking. Especially useful is the "New Citations" section which compiles citations of recently published literature in the tobacco field. The section is updated weekly and the compilations are kept for a month. Eventually these citations are added to the database. "Research, Data and Reports" provides access to a variety of reports, data,

Note: CD-ROM availability
OSH Smoking and Health Database is available on a CD-ROM called the CDP File. This CD-ROM also contains additional databases on chronic diseases. The databases can be searched in DOS, Windows, or McIntosh environment. You may purchase the CDP File from the Government Printing Office (GPO) by calling 202-512-1800. An annual subscription of two yearly updates is $57.00; a single issue is $32.00. The GPO stock number is 717-145-00000-3.

Member News

John Witton, former Librarian of ISDD Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence, has moved to the National Addiction Research Centre.

LeClaire Bissel, MD has given us notice that she will not be renewing her SALIS membership and is parting ways from both Medicine and the AOD field. This past fall she received the Elizabeth Blackwell award for the American Medical Women's Association, their top honor. In her new "retired" status, she is working to fight against the Christian Coalition.
New Books


Government Documents


United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Labor and Human Resources. Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety. *Reauthorization of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: hearing before the Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, United States Senate, One Hundred Fifth Congress, first session, on taking a close look at the current needs of individuals who are substance abusers, those with mental illness and the providers of services to these individuals, in addition, focusing on areas which can alter SAMHSA to help the agency operate more efficiently and effectively, May 22, 1997*. Washington: U.S. G.P.O., 1997. 97 p.