SAVE THE DATES:
Information Without Borders:
Joint SALIS/Elisad Meeting

The 28th Annual SALIS Conference and 18th Annual Elisad Meeting September 26—30, 2006 in Boston, MA. The call for abstracts, exhibitors, and additional information is coming soon!

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2006 Conference Update
Information Without Borders
Virtual Tour of Boston

Are you coming to Boston for the 28th Annual SALIS Conference and 18th Annual Elisad Meeting in September 26—30, 2006 in Boston? Still not decided? Explore Boston via this virtual tour. Find out about the culture, activities, and climate of Boston Massachusetts. Follow the links below for illumination.

Photos and details on our conference hotel, Sheraton Newton Hotel, are available here: http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/search/hotel_detail.html?propertyID=831&fromSearch=11XX&linkbrand=&links=all

Our conference meeting facilities are at Education Development Center: http://www.edc.org

Your conference co-hosts are Eric Helmuth at JoinTogether (http://www.jointogether.org) and Jessica Hinkson at the Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention at EDC (http://www.higheredcenter.org)

What's going on in Boston?

Greater Boston Convention and Visitor's Bureau (includes sites in different languages): http://www.bostonusa.com/

- The Boston Globe: http://www.boston.com
- Citysearch Boston: http://boston.citysearch.com/

Select arts and entertainment hot spots:

- Museum of Science: http://www.mos.org
- Museum of Fine Arts: http://www.mfa.org
- Faneuil Hall: http://www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com/
- New England Aquarium: http://www.neaq.org/
- The Freedom Trail: http://www.thefreedomtrail.org/

And, of course, our beloved Red Sox: http://www.redsox.com
Finding Country-Based Research

By Sheila Lacroix, Library Co-ordinator, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, Canada

From time to time, we receive search requests for research limited to Canadian studies. I’m sure those of you in other countries receive these types of requests as well.

We all know that research has become very international, with multi-site clinical trials and joint research projects that may include teams from different countries. Also, researchers use data sets from other jurisdictions and research activity has become polarized by ‘centres of excellence’ which draw researchers from many backgrounds and countries, breaking down geographic barriers. Because of this, I usually probe the patron to make sure they do not unintentionally miss essential resources.

On the other hand, substance use issues are influenced by culture, regional trends and markets, public policy, public attitudes, health care delivery systems, etc. So, it is often valuable to hone in on research of a more local nature. A review of two large databases, Medline and PsycINFO, reveals that this is easier said than done. The following is based on searching done through the Ovid Gateway, a popular vendor for PsycINFO and Medline.

There are three main ways to find geographic specific studies, but not all are available for each database, and all have limitations.

- Search by geographic Subject Headings (generally limits one to epidemiological studies) – Medline Only.
- Search by institutional address – Medline & PsycINFO.
- Search by study location – PsycINFO only, by country.

Search by: Geographic Subject Headings (Medline)

Medline is indexed to enable one to search by geographic regions, broad and narrow. However, one must be cautious with this approach because it tends to be used more for epidemiological research where results are based on survey or systems data, or papers where the geographic area is identified as being significant in some way – for example, ‘alcohol policy in Ontario’. One can search under MeSH term Canada or by any of the provinces and territories. Or, one can ‘explode’ to incorporate papers encompassing all of Canada as well as all of the individual provinces or territories. In the United States, there are three levels of breakdown – country, regions and individual states. Britain also has regional breakdowns. It is recommended that the online thesaurus of MeSH terms be explored for each region.

Search by: Institutional Address (Medline, PsycINFO)

The institutional address is generally the address of the first author. This can be a good indication of the geographic identity of the research, although not always. But, don’t get caught into the trap that I fell into, thinking that all addresses are standard and include the country! One cannot just search by Canada in., (Canada) in PubMed, IN being the field code in both Medline and PsycINFO for the Institution Field which is word indexed. Sarah Bonato, one of my librarian colleagues here at CAMH, discovered that a significant number of Canadian studies were missed when she selected only those with Canada in the address when searching Medline.

Medline/PubMed: For Institutional Address, NLM takes the address directly from the source documents and does not standardize. So the address could be MA or Massachusetts, include U.S.A or not. A look at a recent issue of BMJ revealed many British papers provided only the city in the institutional address, with the exception of a Canadian paper, which had the full address. Basically, there is no standardization and it adds to the confusion when a Canadian Province – New Brunswick or NB is also the name of a New England city.

PsycINFO: It seems to offer more standardization for this field, so it is assumed that the information in the source document is enhanced. APA (American Psychological Association) at least recommends that both full province and state names be searched by both complete name and postal abbreviation and that country names be spelled out with the exception of USA and USSR (former). This is indicated in both Ovid and APA information. However, it seems that US, not USA, is used. A quick check based on a couple of searches showed that country was included in each address. However, further checking is probably necessary.

Search by: Study Location (PsycINFO)

As mentioned above, the study location may not necessarily be related to the Institutional address, as researchers do not limit their work locally.

APA does provide a Location Field (LO). It indicates the county or countries; more than one can be included. US is consistently used. However, for United Kingdom, one will have to include Great Britain, Scotland, England, or Northern Ireland.

Conclusions?

What have we learned through this exercise? Searching for, for example, Canadian or British research is not an exact science. Databases differ in providing ways to access country-based research.

What can we do, other than raising awareness with our patrons and being aware of existing limitations?

- In our plans for a new Alcohol and Drug Database, aim for more standardization and access points for this type of information.

(Continued on page 4)
Several North American SALIS members had the good fortune to join our sister organization, Elisad, for their 17th annual meeting in Oslo this past October. After we recovered from the wonderful shock of the beautiful city and its most fashionable citizens, we got down to the business of studying "Habits of a Lifetime", the theme of this year’s conference.

Jorunn Moen and her SIRUS colleagues hosted 35 Elisad and SALIS members representing about 20 nations through two days of eye-opening sessions. On day one, participants learned about the unique policies and research being conducted in Norway, with a presentation by Ingeborg Rossoew, Director of Sirus. Christine Goodair instructed the group in the basics of marketing and how to apply it to library and information services. Capping off the pre-lunch sessions was Alfred Uhl, who reviewed the work of LBISucht, an Austrian research institution focusing on addiction research.

Following a delicious and satisfying full Norwegian lunch, we learned about Lasdrogus.net, a leading Spanish web site in the addiction field. Andrea Mitchell described an opportunity to create a new AOD bibliographic database in the wake of the loss of the de-funded ETOH database. Attendees learned of the findings of the most recent ESPAD survey of alcohol and other drug use among European students aged 15-16 from Barbro Andersson. Finally, we learned about cybermetric and usability evaluation of drug web sites from Antonio Vidal.

On Friday, conference goers had a choice of two workshops from which to attend. Christine Goodair from DrugScope (England) and Brian Galvin from Ireland’s National Documentation Centre on Drug Use (NDCDU) presented on knowledge management (KM) and its relevance to AOD information work. Participants learned about this approach to an organization's identification, ordering and sharing of all its knowledge resources and why it's important for information specialists to play a roll in promoting and advancing the concepts of KM.

Running simultaneously was the discussion/roundtable on open access and current trends, lead by Louise Faragher, also from Ireland’s NDCDU. Participants learned how to define a 'scholarly publication', examined the cost of access and the traditional print model, and discussed the benefits and problems related to the Open Access model of information management.

Following these in-depth presentations, participants were ravenous for another delicious hot lunch and then, recharged and armed with our caffeinated beverage, we launched into the second half of our day.

Jessica Hinkson opened the afternoon’s presentations from "across the pond" by discussing trends in use and prevention of college-aged alcohol and other drug abuse in the United States. Sheila Lacroix closed our day out with an update from Canada and the role of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse within the country's renewed National Drug Strategy.

I would be remiss if I didn't gush about Friday evening's festivities, hosted by Jorunn Moen and her colleagues at SIRUS. Jorunn arranged an "alcohol and other drugs" coach tour of Oslo to precede our journey to the mountains for dinner. We weaved through the city streets examining first-hand the problems we look to prevent in our work, and then continued up the gorgeous mountainside to the Frognerseteren restaurant on the outskirts of Oslo where we disembarked to a breathtaking view of the city and its fjords.

Conference attendees were spoiled with AOD-related traditional Norwegian songs performed by a children's storyteller, Lillibeth Lunde Elgstoens, from a famous radio show in Norway. A delectable three-course meal highlighting the culinary delights of Norwegian cuisine included trout, reindeer and traditional apple cake, accompanied by wine, coffee, and fascinating discussion. So that we might enjoy ourselves just a little longer, the coach driver was invited in to enjoy some apple cake with the party.

Conference attendees peeled themselves out of bed Saturday morning to join in the discussions at the annual business meeting. Among other items, the group received the Treasurer’s report, announcement of new...
Focus on Women
Given this is the time of the year we celebrate International Women's Day, it seems an appropriate time to announce that, last fall, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) and the BC Centre for Excellence in Women's Health (BCCEWH) agreed to renew a recent commitment to work together on women’s substance use issues. One project involves publishing a series of information resources. The first, Girls, Women and Substance Use, is a 16 page referenced research summary available online at http://www.ccsa.ca - go to Topics, select Women.

Centre for Addictions Research of BC
http://www.carbc.uvic.ca
Although this is not ‘hot off the press’ many may not be aware of this relatively new Canadian research centre at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. It is referred to as ‘Car-BC’ to make an easy-to-say acronym. CARBC attracted Tim Stockwell, all the way from Australia, to fill the position of Director. A former CAMH researcher, Scott MacDonald, is Assistant Director, Research. Dan Reist, a CSAIN member, previously of the Kaiser Foundation, is the Director of the Communication and Resource Unit at CARBC. Check out the Substance Information Link web-site: http://www.silink.ca. As BC is known for its innovative harm reduction approaches and as CARBC works in partnership with many other players in BC, both of these sites are well worth frequent visits for a window on west coast Canada.

News From Canada
By Sheila Lacroix, Library Co-ordinator, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, Canada
A couple of interesting updates!

Periodical News
Biomed Central has just launched a new on-line journal titled, Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy. This new open access, peer-reviewed, journal encompasses all aspects of research concerning substance abuse, with a focus on policy issues. For more information http://www.substanceabusepolicy.com/


A special section of Journal of Public Health Policy Vol. 26 No. 3, September 2005 is devoted to the topic of "Global Alcohol Marketing and Youth: Public Health Perspectives" including an editorial, commentary, and five other articles.

"Making Lesbians Visible in the Substance Abuse Field" is the theme issue of Journal of Lesbian Studies Vol. 9 No. 3, 2005

Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health replaces Employee Assistance Quarterly beginning with Vol. 20, 2005

(Elisad Meeting from page 3)
officers (congratulations Anne Singer, Daniela Zardo and Brian Galvin!) and a discussion on the redesign of the Elisad Web site as well as the addition of the Gateway to the site.

As a first-time Elisad meeting attendee, I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the ways in which our European counterparts are tackling the issues around AOD abuse in their countries, and I'm most appreciative of our colleagues for being so welcoming. I know we'll have a fantastic conference this year with the opportunity to fully blend our knowledge and expertise in our first ever joint conference! If you have not yet decided on whether to come to Boston for the SALIS/Elisad Joint Conference in September, please be sure to see the Virtual Tour of Boston, front page of this issue.

See Photo credits on page 7

(Country-based research from page 2)

• Make recommendation to International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE) that all addiction journals be consistent in publishing the institutional address and that it be a complete address
• In our plans for a new Alcohol and Drug Database, aim for more standardization and access points for this type of information.
News on Marmottan
Survival problem for the Marmottan Documentation Centre, Paris, France

At the end of October, the French Toxibase network of AOD documentation centres learned that the employment of Clotilde Carrandié, librarian at the Marmottan hospital for drug users in Paris, was not going to be funded anymore by the Mildt (French Interministerial mission on drugs and addictions).

The Marmottan library was created in 1987 as a member of the Toxibase documentation network. It is also an Elisad member since 1999. The library was described in the Elisad journal, issue 4, March 2001. The collection consists of about 9000 documents (books, reports, conference proceedings, grey literature): 70% in French, 20% in English and 10% in other languages. All documents are catalogued, and all aspects of addictions are covered: prevention, treatment, law enforcement, epidemiology, pharmacology, sociology, including not only illegal substances but also alcohol, tobacco, pathological gambling and addictions without substances.

Clotilde was very active in collecting and indexing documents. She also participates in many activities such as contributing to the Toxibase journal, and being a member of the editorial committee of Psychotrope.

The decision to cancel her employment shows the lack of knowledge of the governmental authorities about the documentation demand from the AOD professionals, the students and the researchers. It also shows the misunderstanding from the authorities on the need to link documentation centres to research and clinical practices. It also causes harm to the Toxibase network activity and Elisad will lose a member if the documentation centre is going to be closed...

For the moment, Clotilde is still working, and Marmottan, with the support of many professionals including Toxibase, is looking for solutions to fund her position.

For more information on the Marmottan Documentation Centre, visit the Centre’s website at www.hopital-marmottan.fr.

New Books
Compiled by Andrea L. Mitchell, Librarian
Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley, CA


Bride, Brian E. and Samuel A. MacMaster (Eds.) Stress, Trauma and Substance Use. Routledge (May 2006) $122.00 ISBN:0415400457 (hardback)


(Continued on page 6)
(New Books from page 5)


Mees, Ludger, Klaus-Juergen Nagel, and Hans-Juergen Puhle. Kampf um den Wein: Modernisierung und (Continued on page 7)
Interessesnpolitik im spanischen Weinbau Rioja, Navarra und Katalonien 1860-1940 (Vienna Verlag fuer Geschichte und Politik; Munich Oldenbourg, 2005).


Transchel, Kate. Under the Influence: Working-class Drinking, Temperance, And Cultural Revolution in Russia, 1895-1932 (Pitt Series in Russian and East European Studies) Univ. of Pittsburgh Press (March 30, 2006) $35.00 ISBN: 082294278X (hardback)


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**Photo Credits**

17th Elisad Meeting - Oslo, Norway
Photos by Jessica Hinkson

*Page 3*– Clockwise at the table: Chris and Christine Goodaire, Brian Galvin, Ove Sundby, Thomas Rouault, Gabi Dobusch, and Paula Graca

*Page 4*– Vigeland Sculpture Park—Circle of Struggle
**SALIS News** (ISSN: 1072-4567) is the official publication of the Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists.

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Subscription Information: **SALIS News** is a quarterly newsletter. Subscription rates are for calendar year only. $20.00 for United States, Canada and Mexico. $25.00 for all others. FREE to SALIS members. Prepayment must accompany all subscription requests.

**Mail to:** SALIS News  
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Berkeley, CA 94709-0513

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**Deadline for next issue of SALIS News, Vol. 26, No. 1, Spring 2006 is: April 1, 2006**

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