The more things change, the more they stay the same, right? I’d like to think so, but my job as director of the library at the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies has moved light years away from where it started in 1981. The building is different, most of the library staff have gone, and the collections have grown exponentially in many areas. And technology, of course, has completely changed the ways we serve our users. I can truly say I spend far more time at the PC than I do in the stacks. Some days it seems like the only thing that hasn’t changed around here in a while is my presence, but that’s about to change, too. On August 1, I will hang up my spurs and hit the happy trail to retirement (and travel—lots of it!). So by way of good-bye, I’d like to share my thoughts about AOD librarianship and how far we’ve come in twenty-five years.

Remember print? Not so very long ago, the printed document was not just the end result of an information search, it was the resource used for finding information. When I first began at our library, the main tools for finding information by subject or author were the indexes and abstracts for the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, which was still a monthly publication at that time. For over 40 years this journal had published original research studies...
Treasurer’s Report—Barbara Weiner
We have a decent bank balance, but we still should be cautious financially. At end of year we’ll probably have a balance of $8,000-$10,000. In addition to memberships, income this year included a contract and a donation. Since 2004, we have sought sponsorship and exhibit money for conferences; this has proved very lucrative. We earned a total of more than $20,000 from the last three conferences. As we aren’t having a 2007 conference we are (possibly) missing out on a substantial amount of money we could have used to achieve the goals that are going to come out of our Strategic Planning meeting.

Andrea distributed a copy of the SALIS Home Report. The following four topics were discussed.

1) Advocacy Issues
The continuing trend of closing and downsizing ATOD libraries and databases is a matter of common interest that SALIS should address. Senior staff from major libraries have lost their jobs. Major libraries are being closed e.g. NIDA, NCADI; Toxibase (France) has been dissolved. Other libraries have been downsized and databases discontinued. Our future depends on the information world. This is an area in which we need clearly defined action steps. As a 501c3, we cannot lobby, but we can advocate. We can advise people on tactics. We can watch trends, and help people respond. We can reach out to other organizations to forge partnerships in areas of common interest. But what is realistic in terms of the time and energy that SALIS members have to devote to these activities? 5 hours a week? Less? More?

2) Membership has gone down by 20 to a total of 97. We are still waiting on some members to renew, as they said they would.

3) Conferences
Planning for Spring 2008 in Seattle is underway. To attract more exhibitors to conferences, we need to start building a base. We had 33 exhibitors in 1989, but the number fell off after that. People need to call and make contacts; exhibitors tend to come back year after year. We should approach big vendors such as EBSCO, which several members use. Sponsorships can be used to increase funds for Conference scholarships. Last year, NIDA specifically designated their sponsorship contribution for scholarships.

4) Other
Our bylaws need to be revised. (There is nothing about an Executive Director in the Bylaws as the position was created in 1996.) We should consider making it possible to receive funds through PayPal, which we could use not only for memberships but for donations, conference sponsorships, etc. Meg Brunner will work with SALIS Administrative Assistant Chase Pearce to implement PayPal. Nancy Sutherland has designed a draft contribution page for the website.

ELISAD
Christine Goodair, ELISAD Chair, has let it be known that Elisad is facing possible constitutional changes; moving the administrative offices elsewhere because of Toxibase’s closing; changing membership structure; and the eternal question of whether ELISAD and SALIS should merge.

Bookstore Partnerships
Barbara Weiner described the Hazelden bookstore partnership online offer. If SALIS put a link to Hazelden on its home page, SALIS would get 12% of any sales made through that link. Previously, we have discussed whether SALIS should join the sales associate program for amazon.com and/or bn.com. Perhaps we should revisit that idea. A lot of members buy directly from Amazon, and could go through SALIS. Amazon pays only about 1%. This all relates to our goals of being self-sustaining and diversifying income sources.

Member Survey
In April 2007, at the suggestion of the consultant Strategic Planner, we put a 3-item open-ended survey on the listserv to get members’ thoughts about SALIS, its value, and the issues it faces. The purpose was to identify the issues most important to members, to feed into the strategic planning conferences. We had a high response rate of over one-third, and most respondents said that SALIS was very important to their professional life.

World Drink Trends Ceased
The little book entitled, World Drink Trends has ceased publication. The last edition published 2005 contained the 2003 data for alcohol consumption in 58 countries. This source was the major source for consumption data across countries. Perhaps we should make note that 2003 was the last year for the ETOH database, as well as possibly the last year for being able to get consumption data at a reasonable cost. The publisher for this title was WARC World Advertising Center Ltd, in association with the Commission for Distilled Spirits. Stay tuned for where we may hope to get this information in the future.
NIDA Advisory Council Meeting
Clare Imholtz, Librarian
Center for Substance Abuse Research

The NIDA Advisory Council Meeting was held on May 16, 2007, in a large room with at least 100 seats, which virtually filled up with NIDA employees over the course of the morning. NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow opened the meeting by introducing the new members of the Advisory Council, then moved directly into her presentation. Her talk was dense with information and she spoke quickly, but she was not difficult to follow. I have paraphrased Dr. Volkow’s talk below. Her slide show is available now on the NIDA webpage (URL below), and official minutes will (eventually) be posted.

Dr. Volkow first spoke about NIDA’s budget, which has declined in real terms for the past two years. The total budget is about $1 billion, of which 30% is reserved for HIV/AIDS. As a result, Dr. Volkow said, in her straightforward manner, NIDA is not always funding the best science (an HIV/AIDS research proposal may well get funded while a better proposal in a different field may not). This has been bothering her. She agrees that AIDS is important, but prefers a level playing field. She wants to improve the quality of the grants.

There is a significant amount of money available for new grants, and she encourages people to think creatively to relate HIV/AIDS research needs to drug abuse research needs. There are many opportunities. For example, we still don’t know enough about indirect links between injection drug use and AIDS e.g., when people inject and then have sex with people with AIDS. AIDS cases through heterosexual contact are increasing significantly, and drugs such as methamphetamine may play a role here by increasing desire while lowering inhibitions. Selling drugs for sex may also play a role in AIDS transmission. We need information on patterns relating to AIDS and drug use, perhaps by gaining access to existing study cohorts (ALIVE, MLS, etc.). Brain imaging studies could prove valuable for prevention. These are just some examples of HIV/AIDS research that would also serve drug abuse research needs.

Dr. Volkow described several studies that she liked. One was about the convergence of HIV seroprevalence among injecting and noninjecting drug users. Another, using data from National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (NLSAH) (18-26 year olds) was about HIV and STDs—sex and drug behavior patterns, and racial disparities. It identified 18 behavioral risk factors for HIV for Caucasians, but found that African Americans were at high risk regardless of their behavior, pointing up the need for community prevention strategies for young African Americans.

A third very exciting study found that statins revert the neurotoxicity of an HIV and alcohol combination—a finding valuable for alcohol research even without considering HIV. A fourth pertinent study showed that depot medication (in which the drug is released over several weeks) ensures compliance with a naltrexone regime among criminal justice clients, and thus reduces not only heroin use but also other drugs, cocaine, marijuana.

Dr. Volkow then talked about the hot new field of epigenetics (the study of changes that occur in genomic expression, though not in DNA), which will be a research emphasis across NIH. Exploring how we can silence and/or activate genes is potentially very important in cancer research, but also for mental diseases and the nervous system, and provides fascinating opportunities for research on medications to treat drug misuse. Finally, before taking questions, Dr. Volkow praised the HBO program Addiction, which did a “super job explaining the disease model.”

Listening, I was struck throughout Dr. Volkow’s presentation by her familiarity with PubMed and literature searching. For example, she mentioned that she did a PubMed search on “AIDS dementia” and “statins” and found no papers, and that citations for epigenetics are exploding. I had to wonder if Dr. Volkow, a scientist who does at least some of her own searches, and to whom keeping up with the research is obviously of key importance, is aware of PubMed’s limitations in the field of substance-related disorders. It is true that PubMed has been adding key substance journals, but it remains deficient in areas pertaining to social science. While neuroscience researcher Volkow is probably comparatively well-served by PubMed, NIDA Director Volkow needs access to all the drug and alcohol literature.

Dr. Volkow had to leave, so Deputy Director Timothy Condon took the chair. A lively discussion of research grant issues continued among the council members for quite a while. It was noted by Condon that while NIDA’s position is that drug abuse prevention research is pertinent to HIV, not everyone in NIH feels that way. After a break, we heard three presentations: (1) Update on the Intramural Program by Dr. Linda Porrino; (2) Data Sets of Interest to Drug Abuse Researchers by Dr. Wilson Compton; and (3) Update on the Clinical Trials Network by Dr. Betty Tai. These presentations, along with Dr. Volkow’s, are available online at:
http://www.nida.nih.gov/about/organization/nacda/CouncilPresentations.html

Finally, the floor was opened to members of the public, with a 5-minute time limit per speaker. A representative of The Friends of NIDA spoke briefly. And so the meeting ended. The ambiance, I’d like to note, had been relaxed and open from beginning to end.
News From Canada

By Sheila Lacroix
Chair, Canadian SIG

I’m sure like me, you have missed not having the annual SALIS conference this year. It provides an opportunity to generate a lot of enthusiasm, not to mention additional income for SALIS. Even if unable to attend, it is a rallying point for our professional work and projects. However, the Board strategic planning meeting, hosted by Stephanie Asteriadis and Marie Tully at the excellent facilities of the Nevada PRC, was equally important with two full days to concentrate on plans for keeping SALIS alive, growing and vibrant for the next few years. Overall, our membership is down and we are concerned about library closures of member libraries and the uncertainty and lack of federal support for the RADAR centers in the U.S. Canadian membership continues to be strong and although small by comparison, I think we add a lot to the international flavour of SALIS in return for the great benefits of membership. There is still room for growth within Canada, so we must not become complacent. We have Halifax, 2009 to anticipate, as we move across the continent from Seattle, 2008. BTW, I urge anyone who does not know where Halifax is located to get an atlas or consult Google Map; as the crow flies, it is not too far from Boston – just follow along up the Eastern coast. Halifax, like Boston, has that historic atmosphere of the early northeast maritime settlements.

The biggest news in Canada is the dismantling of Canada’s Drug Strategy, which has set the course for many years on a public health approach. The new Anti-Drug Strategy will move responsibility from Health Canada to the Department of Justice, Canada, and primarily focus on illicit drugs. The website for the new strategy is still under construction, so details are sparse. Many find this regressive; the emphasis on criminal justice criminalizes instead of heals, marginalizes instead of integrates, increases stigma and demonizes specific drugs shifting the focus more on the drug than the needs of the users and vulnerable communities. It is uncertain to what extent this is a ‘fait accompli’ and one wonders if the current government has consulted the research and the many policy experts in our country! Time will tell.

Periodical News

Compiled by Nancy Sutherland, Library Director, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute


Bentham Science Publishers announces a new journal, Current Drug Abuse Reviews, to begin publication in 2008. CDAR will publish “frontier reviews and meta-analyses on all latest developments in neurobiology, neuropsychopharmacology, addiction, behavioral effects, prevention, and treatment strategies on abuse of alcohol and both illicit and prescription drugs. The journal’s aim is to publish the highest quality review articles in the field. The journal will be published in both print and online editions. Reviews will be processed rapidly and take full advantage of Internet technology for both the submission and peer-review of manuscripts.” The website <www.bentham.org/cdar> lists the editorial board, aims & scope, and instructions for authors. CDAR will be published 3 times per year, in both print and online editions. Academic subscriptions are $480 (print or online), and $530 (print and online). Personal subscriptions are $140, for print only.

Journal editor Joris C. Verster, PhD, from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, has issued a call for papers for review articles, meta-analyses, or mini-reviews. Contact him at <cdar@bentham.org> with a short abstract of proposed articles and date of submission.

NIDA’s Science & Practice Perspectives to be Indexed by PubMed

NIDA announces several changes that will increase the availability and visibility of Science & Practice Perspectives, a peer-reviewed journal for drug abuse researchers and treatment providers. The journal will now be indexed by Pubmed (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi), with the title abbreviation "Sci Pract Perspect." Also, beginning with vol. 3 no. 2 (April 2007), the journal moves to a twice yearly publishing schedule. As before, the journal is available in full text on the NIDA website: http://www.drugabuse.gov/Perspectives/index.html

The Journal of Drug Education and Awareness has ceased publication.

New ISSNs for the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs:

The Library of Congress has assigned new ISSNs to this journal: 1937-1888 (print) and 1938-4114 (online). The new ISSNs are effective immediately and apply retroactively, beginning with the January 2007 issue (v.68 (1)).

Have you read?
Everything is Miscellaneous by David Weinberger
Times Books, May 2007
Hardcover, 288 pages
ISBN-10: 0805080430
Editor’s Summer Notes

Andrea L. Mitchell
Alcohol Research Group

If you haven’t yet read “Members Corner” a new column in this issue, please do. The idea for it came out of the Strategy Meeting in Reno and Diane Van Abbe has offered to be column editor. Please consider being one of the profiles, as it should help to make connections with colleagues.

The NIDA Library Closing piece in the last issue of SALIS News, http://salis.org/nidaliibrarycloses.html prompted several of us at the Strategy Meeting to push for the importance of “Advocacy” in the forthcoming Strategic Plan. At the meeting, the persons who volunteered to be a part of an Advocacy Working Group outlined a few goals and tasks on the issue of closing ATOD libraries and discontinuing ATOD databases. SEE also: KBS Adopts Resolution Supporting ATOD Libraries.

Another topic selected by the Advocacy Group was the importance of preservation of information and digitization. More on this will be forthcoming in a future issue of News.

Web 2.0 seems to be all the buzz right now, and probably something which many of you know a whole lot more about than I do. San Francisco Public Library hosted a presentation/conversation about this which I attended recently, that was most provocative. David Silver, Professor of Cyberculture Studies at University of San Francisco challenged the audience with many impressions and views and kept everyone totally entranced. Here are just a few examples of statements he made and then elaborated upon: “Wikipedia may be the greatest work of art in our time”, vs. “there is a profound element of narcissism in Web 2.0” e.g. Facebook, blogging, MySpace, etc. “Three things to worry about with Web 2.0: 1) Part of it is a marketing scheme… Tim O’Reilly owns most of the books on Web 2.0, 2) It has this hyperfocus on the present and 3) Suggests that user generated data is something only Web can do”.

It was one of those talks where you wish you could remember everything he said. I wish I could articulate more about this presentation, but I do recommend that if you get a chance to hear DAVID SILVER speak, you run right over.

We are still trying to get the newsletter back on track, so that summer issue comes out in the summer, and fall in the fall. Thus, next issue deadline is August 10, and we still need contributions. Please try to get these in on time so that we can catch up. Any new ideas for a column would be much appreciated. Writing for the News really helps to engage with SALIS in more ways than you can imagine.

KBS Adopts Resolution Supporting ATOD Libraries

Andrea L. Mitchell, Librarian
Alcohol Research Group

Acting upon one of the tasks set out in the SALIS advocacy working group at the Strategy meeting in Reno, a list was created of the libraries and/or databases that have been either closed, downsized or discontinued since 2003. Given that I was attending the Kettil Bruun Society (KBS) meeting in Budapeste, it seemed an opportunity for disseminating this list and making known SALIS’ concerns about this situation. Reasons for these closures, outlined in my presentation, included Googlization and the myth that everything is available online, and the continual decrease in available funding at both the state and federal levels. A point also made was that as these libraries/databases continue to be downsized or shut down, we lose the AOD field’s history, not just because the AOD journals, books and gray literature are no longer available at a place, but that AOD librarians/information specialists in those positions go elsewhere and their expertise is lost to those who need it.

Both the Coordinating Committee (KBS’ governing body) and the General Business Meeting attendees were responsive and supportive. Here is the KBS Resolution which was passed unanimously at their business meeting:

The General Meeting of the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol notes that alcohol studies is a specialized field not well served by general medical, public health or social science libraries and databases. Social and epidemiological research in the field cannot rely solely on web-based materials, but requires books, reports and other “grey literature”, and historical materials catalogued and available in libraries.

With concern, we note recent trends for reducing budgets or closing the alcohol and other drug libraries and databases.

We call on governments and other funding bodies to ensure the preservation of and adequate funds to build the collections of, AOD libraries and databases serving the needs of social and epidemiological research in our field.

The idea that “everything” is now available online as most of us know, is simply not the case. We must continue to raise our concerns about special AOD libraries and databases being closed or defunded, and the importance of the services that SALIS members provide to their respective clients. With the recent news about the EPA libraries being given a go-ahead with new funding, it does give some hope for what SALIS may accomplish with a clear message, communication and a dedicated group.
The 'A-Team' is back in demand
By Christine Goodair and Anne Welsh*

The 'new skills' of information architecture and taxonomy design are cataloguing and classification under a different name, says Christine Goodair. And Anne Welsh, having survived the last cat and class recession, feels her time is coming again.

The Information Service Manager’s viewpoint
Christine Goodair

In today's information world, there seems to be a trend towards the de-skilling of librarians, particularly in cataloguing and classification. However, as the manager of an information and library service providing both virtual and physical libraries, I have become more and more conscious of the need for these skills. With the volume of information available today, the key to accessing it lies in how it is organised and described.

Much is made about the "new skills" of information architecture and taxonomy design but, for me, these are about the development of a structure or the organisation of information, and the use of controlled language or classification to describe concepts.

In a library, for example, information architecture is a combination of our cataloguing and indexing systems and the physical organisation of the collection on shelves. On the web, information architecture is a combination of organising a site's content into categories and creating an interface and navigation systems to support them in order to help people retrieve information. What information professionals have to offer are our cataloguing, indexing and abstracting skills – the crucial components of successful information architecture.

We also have expertise to share about design. Many websites are quite wordy and content-heavy, whereas we can capitalise on our experience of scanning literature and apply it to the internet. Many people find reading the web difficult, which has led to the emergence of the "scan reader", impatient and battered by information overload. What they want is to identify the salient points through short headings, summaries, and sentences in clear, simple language -- again the skills of cataloguing and description are invaluable.

In my time at DrugScope, my view on cataloguing and classification has changed from seeing it as a backroom task to knowing it is the light in the front room. Why? Because it is the key to good information retrieval – answering our enquiries, creating information products on our website, and disseminating information through modern current awareness services, such as our blog. In essence, without good cataloguing and indexing resources, I feel that we would not be able to produce effective, efficient and comprehensive information services.

The Career Cataloguer’s viewpoint
Anne Welsh

Having qualified in the mid-1990s, I find the current atmosphere of doom surrounding cataloguing very familiar. I learned and began plying my trade in the era when free-text retrieval was being vaunted as a cure for all searching ills, while thesaurus construction and controlled vocabularies were sniffed at as outmoded and -- that crime of all information crimes -- not user-friendly.

It soon became clear, however, that we can’t “Google the world” – or, rather, when we Google, it is the whole world that we retrieve. At the same time, organisations were discovering that their databases had deteriorated under the stewardship of poorly-paid, low-status, often unqualified individuals – multiple entries, inconsistently-entered titles or subjects, and hideously mangled corporate bodies all contributed to databases that were difficult to search and impossible to integrate – Z39.50 and its successors all need some level of data matching, after all.

Suddenly, cataloguing and indexing skills were in demand again. Commercial information providers were hiring and paying executive salaries. Website producers were looking for taxonomists (or, if American, taxonomists). Libraries who had retained their professional catalogues (and cataloguers) were held up as examples of best practice, while those who had not were looking for consultants to sort out their issues.

And so the wheel turns: in the good (well-paid, well-recognised) times, we the career cataloguers sort out the databases, train staff in international and national standards and, like tightrope walking or sword swallowing, make cataloguing and class look as natural and easy as breathing in fresh air. After all, how hard is data entry? Surely anyone can follow some simple rules? Don’t phone companies employ people straight from school to create their directories? (Have you tried any of the 118 services recently?)

It concerns me to hear that some cataloguing grades are being moved from academic-related to clerical-related scales. It concerns me that the grading structure of technical services is being treated differently from that of front-of-house services like enquiries. How long will it be before another review comes along and argues that if those who work the enquiry desk have the same qualifications and length of experience as their lower-graded cataloguer col-

(Continued on page 7)
leagues, shouldn’t they be re-graded too? That concerns me as well. However, having survived the last cat and class recession, I know that this trend is cyclical. Ultimately, I believe that the rumour of fewer and fewer young people with practical cataloguing experience is bad news for employers, not cataloguers. It’s all about supply and demand, and the demand will rise again when database quality bottoms out.

When that time comes, I believe that we children of the 1980s whose Saturday tea-time was accompanied by The A-Team will find just cause to use the show’s trailer-line (my italics): “If you have a problem; if no-one else can help, and if you can find them, maybe you can hire” someone with the skills to make your materials accessible.

*Christine Goodair has been Head of Website & Information Services at DrugScope for the last four years. One of her first actions in post was to raise funding for professional cataloguing and indexing posts. Note: Christine is currently Programme Coordinator at the International Centre for Drug Policy

Anne Welsh is Information Officer – Bibliographic Services at DrugScope and the new editor of Catalogue & Index: periodical of the CILIP Cataloguing & Indexing Group.

This article originally appeared in “Library and Information Update 5 (11) November 2006. Reprinted by kind permission of CILIP, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals [U.K.]
Welcome to Member’s Corner! It is a long time between conferences, and we thought it would be fun to get to know each other on a little more personal basis. Each issue of the SALIS newsletter will highlight three members chosen at random. If you would like to volunteer to share with us, we would love to hear from you. You can email Diane van Abbe at diane_vanabbe@camh.net.

George Marcelle
Los Angeles, California

How long have you been a member of SALIS?
Not sure, but I remember Andrea with freckles and pigtails back then..., or was that me?

What organization do you work for and what is your position?
I have worked for what is now the Social & Health Services group of Macro International, a USA/Info company, since September 1990, as a 'Communications Director,' among other things. My title depends on the proposal.

How has being a member of SALIS enriched your life?
First and foremost by offering me a nurturing and supportive professional "family," encouraging my interests in several substance abuse-related topics, and by providing an instantly-accessible network of cordial and congenial experts to make me look smarter than I ever was.

Hobbies outside of work:
The Golden Age of Hollywood (pre-digital); travel; beach-bumming; naps.

Favourite colour: In paper, green.

Favourite food: Curry and chocolate, but not usually in the same dish.

Favourite book: Choosing one isn't really possible, but I'll go with Janet Flanner's *Paris Was Yesterday*.

Is there anything else you want SALIS colleagues to know about you?
My partner, Carlos Lamboy and I have been together 25 years this summer. In January we received an official certificate from the California Secretary of State declaring that we are "domestic partners" in the eyes of the state.

Tom Krawczyk
Champaign, Illinois

How long have you been a member of SALIS?
I joined SALIS in 2004 after stumbling across its website.

What organization do you work for and what is your position?
I work for the University of Illinois' Center for Prevention Research and Development. My title here is actually something obtuse, like Human Services/Education Writing Specialist. My business card shortens that to Writer/Editor, but I'm more like a Communication Liaison, or maybe just "information guru."

How has being a member of SALIS enriched your life?
Primarily through professional development and resource retrieval. I attended the Chicago conference in 2005, but I also gain valuable "training" on current topics via the listserv. And of course, the list is the place to go for difficult or rare resources!

Hobbies outside of work:
My two sons keep me busy: riding our bikes, going to the library, playing in our big backyard, and reading/talking about dinosaurs, superheroes, and Pokemon.

Favourite colour: I'm red-green color deficient (but not quite color blind), so I tend to stick with blue. Blue jeans go with everything!

Favourite food: Lobster, lentils, and chocolate.

Favourite book: That's hard--I belong to a book club at work, so I get to read and discuss a lot of wonderful books. A few months ago, I read *The Road*, which has haunted me since. I just started *The Yellow-Lighted Bookshop*, which I would recommend to librarians. But I guess my all-time favorite is *The Purpose Driven Life*, by Rick Warren.

Sheila Lacroix
Toronto, Ontario

How long have you been a member of SALIS?
I joined SALIS in 1992 (I think) - at least my first conference was in Nashville, 1992 - and I have been very fortunate not to have missed a conference since.

What organization do you work for and what is your position?
I am the Library Coordinator at the CAMH (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health) Library and my work (Continued on page 13)
and had also served as the main current awareness tool for alcohol research published around the world. If we couldn’t find what we needed through those volumes, we utilized other printed abstracting and indexing services such as Index Medicus and Psychological Abstracts. This type of searching was generally slow and tedious, but there were few good alternatives in the early 1980s. The loss of the abstracting section of the *JS4* after 1982 was a major blow not only to our library and Center, but to the field at large. The *JS4* abstracts had covered all aspects of alcohol use and problems, from the biomedical to the psychosocial. Where else could we find another tool as comprehensive?

The solution for our library was to begin building our own library database. This was strictly an in-house tool (long before we knew about the Internet), and because we were a small staff we could not provide abstracts for the material we identified and included in our database. However, we knew it was important to use a controlled vocabulary to provide subject access to these materials. Unfortunately there was no AOD thesaurus available at that time, so we relied on subject categories and terms from the earlier *JS4* indexes and added new terms as they appeared in the literature. By this time there were a number of health and social science databases available, mostly from commercial vendors, which we relied on primarily to help build our own database. This was more cost-effective for us than using such commercial databases to answer user requests. Even Medline was fee-based at that time, and we had to charge users to cover the costs for any searches that we performed. The other problem with the commercial databases was that none of them was devoted to substance use/abuse. Different databases covered different parts of the literature, and many addiction journals got incomplete coverage in those databases.

Other SALIS libraries struggled with similar problems in locating and providing access to addiction information. And many of us complained that the biggest difficulty in accessing addiction information, besides commercial fees, was the lack of a controlled vocabulary for the AOD literature. In 1971 the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism had begun building a database of alcohol literature. Although not available directly to the public through any vendor, the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol Information (which later became NCADI to serve both NIAAA and NIDA) would provide searches for the public on request. Our Center had direct access to this database for several years as part of a cooperative agreement with NIAAA, and I speak from experience when I say that it was often impossible to use. Not only was the software archaic and cumbersome, but the lack of a controlled subject vocabulary made accurate searching a shot in the dark. Finally in the late-1980s NIAAA decided to invest in cleaning up the database (renamed ETOH) and making it available to libraries through the BRS database vendor.

Several of us in SALIS were invited to serve on a database advisory committee, and our recommendations led to the development of the AOD Thesaurus from NIAAA. Within a few years NIAAA made the database (and later the thesaurus) available free to the public via the Internet, and it seemed like our field had almost reached the pinnacle in information access. What a blow to have it knocked out from under us in 2003 with the closing of the ETOH database!

Despite this setback, technology has overall enriched the AOD library experience for information professionals and our users. Email has greatly enhanced our ability to interact with our colleagues and users around the world, often in real time, and the Web has allowed us to more easily share documents and resource tools and has vastly simplified, expedited, and often improved our ability to search for AOD information. While the price tag for technology has not been cheap, it has often allowed us to shift costs from the creation and maintenance of print resources to the more easily-updated and accessible online resources (saving shelf space in the bargain). There are risks, of course, since online resources may disappear, and digital archiving and preservation are still in their infancy. But the Web offers a medium where information can be created that might otherwise never see the light of day (or a publisher’s desk), and it allows the sharing of information whose access to the public had previously been limited by physical barriers. We were finally able to get our library database onto the Web in 2000, thanks to a cooperative effort with the Scholarly Communications Center at the Rutgers University Libraries, although we have struggled with a search interface that has been less user-friendly than we would like. We are working with the SCC staff towards an improved interface, which will likely require more funds from our Center.

AOD librarianship has grown so much in the past quarter century, and we have our own professional association as proof of that growth. From its establishment in 1978, SALIS has matured into a truly international body with members from government agencies, universities, research centers, and other information agencies around the world. The SALIS listserv has become a daily tool for networking and sharing expertise with our colleagues and for monitoring new developments in the field. So where are we heading in the 21st century? Many of us have suffered in recent years from tighter fiscal climates, often leading to reductions in staff and public services. The federal government has dropped its support for NIAAA’s ETOH database and the IDA (Information on Drugs and Alcohol) database from the National Clearinghouse, and it has recently closed the library for the National Institute on Drug Abuse. While the Web has made searching for AOD information more accessible, we have lost some of the best sources for that information. More advocacy and cooperation will be needed from AOD information professionals to stem this...
New Books

Compiled by Andrea L. Mitchell, Librarian Alcohol Research Group


Carlson Berne, Emma (Ed.) Nicotine (Series: The history of drugs) Detroit : Greenhaven Press/Thomson Gale, c2006. 188 p. $34.95 ISBN: 0737728477, 9780737728477 (library binding)


Negreiros, Jorge. *Psychological Drug Research: Current Themes and Future Developments = Recherche en psychologie sur les drogues: questions actuelles et perspec-


Tober, Gillian & Duncan Raistrick(eds.). *Motivational* (Continued on page 13)


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**How has being a member of SALIS enriched your life?**

SALIS has immensely enriched both my career and my personal life. Being involved in this small, supportive, friendly organization, truly kick started my librarian career, which began in middle age, empowering me to make presentations, hold office and take on other tasks such as writing for SALIS News and writing articles based on SALIS presentations. Over the years I have learned so much through networking and attending conferences. Also, I have met so many wonderful colleagues whom I feel are friends - shared laughs, tears, set backs, accomplishments, wonderful dinners...

**Hobbies outside of work:**

Although probably classified as a workaholic, I do have a life. I enjoy volunteering for various events - International Women’s Day, Out-of-the-Cold, our CAMH Annual Run for which I have been a committee member for many years. I am also active in church work (pastoral care) and am secretary of another community group involved in advocacy; the minutes take hours (how did I get into this - only one year left). Sometimes I'm out every night of the week! When I do have free time, I love reading, gardening, cross country skiing and cycling to work in the nice weather. I also have several quilting projects that have been in the works for far too long and may never be finished. However, this does not stop me from buying fabrics. I also enjoy time with my two grown children - very special.

**Favourite colour:** Green

**Favourite food:** Breads (go with all of the yummy foods)

**Favourite book:** Many, many, but one of the best I have read over the past couple of years: *Saturday* by Ian McEwan.

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(So Long from page 9)

(tide. Most of all we will need to recruit new professionals with the vision and the technical skills to enhance information sharing and outreach within SALIS, the AOD field, and the public at large. I’ve recently had the rather interesting experience of re-creating my job description for our future library director, and I assure you the next librarian here will be NOTHING like yours truly, which is probably the best thing I can do for the Center of Alcohol Studies right now. Things have definitely changed, and I feel it’s time for movin’ on. Adios, amigos.
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We’re on the web!
http://salis.org

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