Save the Date!

31st Annual SALIS Conference
May 5-8, 2009

Reminders:
- Donations to SALIS may be made at: http://salis.org/donate
- Shop at Amazon & Hazelden via the SALIS site! http://salis.org/resources/new_books.html

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Message from the New Chair
By David Man, CASA at Columbia University

As incoming chair I would first like to recognize our outgoing chair Jessica Hinkson Desmarais from whom I have the good fortune of taking over the reins of SALIS. Jessica has carried out her duties as Chair admirably and I hope to continue where she has so ably left off. Her time as chair culminated with the highly successful Seattle conference which was hosted most efficiently and expertly by Nancy Sutherland, Meg Brunner, and Pam Miles. The conference introduced many of us to the potential of the interactive web, known as Web 2.0. My time as Chair will end with the conference "Setting Sail: Best Practices for the Next Decade" being organized by Ruth Hart in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which I hope as many of us as possible can attend. The dates are May 5-8, 2009. After that Julie Murphy will be taking over the position of Chair.

Every year is a challenge for an organization like ours but this year and the next few will be particularly difficult as we face a general economic downturn which will no doubt impact on all our budgets. Some of us have already felt the razor’s edge of a cut in funding. But, we have been through this before and I am confident we will get through this crisis again, although the depth of the cuts which we face may be far more than any of us can imagine.

Such a global crisis emphasizes one of our important roles as an organization which is to advocate on behalf of libraries, information resource centers, and databases as they come under increasing threat of downsizing or even closure. We may not be able to halt all of these but we can make people more aware of what is happening, and point out the consequences as information becomes degraded and less accessible as a result. SALIS has written innumerable letters, buttonholed politicians of all stripes and submitted editorials to journals in the addictions field.

The 2007 strategy planning meeting in Reno, Nevada, as described by Jessica in SALIS News (Vol. 27 No. 2 Summer 2007) showed a number of areas on which we should focus. Advocacy was one of them. Another was Governance, by which we mean how we organize and run ourselves and which the bylaws detail. After Reno the SALIS bylaws were thoroughly revised and updated and at the end of July 2008 were unanimously approved by a vote of the SALIS membership. Although bylaws can be arcane, they do give an organization its basic constitutional structure which enables its smooth functioning. The next step for Governance is to update and expand the SALIS Manual, which provides informational materials such as duties of

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Set against snow capped mountains and the glittering Puget Sound, SALIS celebrated its thirtieth anniversary with a conference few of us will forget and most of us will long remember for its scope and depth. The theme of "Stepping into the Future: SALIS@Thirty" brought together presentations addressing how emerging technologies are changing the way we work, new ways to connect within our communities (professional and personal), and the future of our organization and field. The meeting was held May 6 - 9 at the Warwick Hotel in beautiful downtown Seattle, and hosted by Nancy Sutherland, Pam Miles, and Meg Brunner of the University of Washington’s Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI).

Many of us less familiar with how the web has evolved into Web 2.0 were gleefully introduced to it by Michael Porter a.k.a. Library Man, blogger extraordinaire from WebJunction who explored a whole range of new technologies and challenged us to consider how these can be used in library settings. To do this take a look at WebJunction, an online library cooperative of library staff sharing and using online resources that enable them to identify and embrace appropriate technologies and apply them to their daily work http://www.webjunction.org/do/Home.

Other resources that we were shown included such social networking sites as: Linkedin (http://www.linkedin.com/), Facebook (http://www.facebook.com), Flickr (http://www.flickr.com), http://del.icio.us, etc., where one can create one’s own profile as well as virtual communities through groups. Indeed these new tools have gone a long way to breakdown the divide between our private and public selves. Employers are increasingly checking websites where personal profiles of applicants can be scrutinized; something to keep in mind the next time you are invited by a friend to write on their wall.

Similarly, Alison Aldrich, Technology Outreach Coordinator from the University of Washington, explored the value of Web 2.0 technologies and how they can enhance information services. Practical advice on using instant

At the May 2008 SALIS Conference in Seattle, several presentations focused on the notion of Web or Library “2.0,” a term that refers to greater interactivity between the information source and the information user, and includes technologies like social networking/bookmarking, interactive blogs and library catalogs, and more. We learned the names of a lot of new applications and 2.0 concepts, but I’m not sure we got a very good sense of exactly how they could be applied in our own libraries and information centers. Or, in some cases, what the benefits of bothering with them in the first place might be.

We also heard the phrase “perpetual beta,” used to describe something that is constantly adapting and improving. Kind of like all of us (especially the “improving” part, right?). This column marks the first in a series aimed to help us navigate the brave new world of Web/Library 2.0. I’ll focus on one or two concepts per column, providing concrete examples of ways libraries and information centers are applying all these new ideas to improve their services and better connect with their communities (not to mention improving their own jobs -- did I mention all this stuff is FUN too?).

One of the easiest “twopointopian” technologies to implement quickly is the BLOG. It also happens to be one of the most obviously applicable in the library/information world. It’s a quick and easy way to make your web site more interesting for users -- it provides access to information about your organization or links to your catalog or other handy resources, AND it’s also a way to hook users and keep them coming back to your site to find out what else is new.

Libraries use their blogs for all kinds of purposes: to promote new programs, to showcase an interesting or new acquisition, to alert patrons to holiday hours or closures, to provide updates on research or news in the field, to introduce a new staff person or profile an old one, or to high-

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HIGHLIGHTS
Executive Board Meetings
30th SALIS Conference, Seattle, May 6-9, 2008

2008 Conference: Nancy Sutherland reported that there were 49 registrations, with a good number of RADAR attendees. Budget was kept well inline with income. A new combined registration-plus-exhibit fee appears to have helped bring more attendees and exhibitors. Team Seattle will send Halifax conference host, Ruth Hart, a guide for planning the 2009 conference based on their experiences.

Treasurers Report – Barbara Weiner: There is a reasonable level of income at this time, although membership is just above one hundred. Two scholarships were awarded for this year’s conference, covered by a generous gift from NIDA. PayPal enabled many SALIS members to pay membership and conference registration online this year. However, it was noted that fees for using PayPal were costly and it may be necessary in the future to add in the cost of the fee. Other income opportunities include vendor links to booksellers: Hazelden and Amazon links have been temporarily set up and should be available after the conference ends.

Home Report Spring 2007 - Spring 2008: Andrea Mitchell apprised Board of the activities and issues of SALIS Home including Home Office move, new equipment purchases, etc. Advocacy Group has continued to work on monitoring the downsizing and closing of ATOD libraries/databases, and draft an editorial on the topic for a major journal. She also noted that the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE) has joined Kettil Bruun Society in concerns about the loss of libraries and like KBS created a resolution to support SALIS effort. Read the resolution: http://www.parint.org/isajewebsite/resolution.htm.

SALIS was invited to “Beyond 2008,” a United Nations meeting in Vancouver, early February this year. Attending on behalf of SALIS, Andrea reported that the aim of the meeting was to gather views about drug policy and its impact upon people and communities. Read the conference report: http://carbe.ca/portals/0/resources/Beyond2008.pdf.

Elisad Update: Christine Goodair updated the Board on Elisad’s activities including: Annual Meeting in Brussels, Sept 2007. Like SALIS, Elisad membership is down and ways to boost membership and revise membership categories are being considered. Gateway Project is now complete. Other projects include the Psychonaut Project which is tracking new drugs mentioned on the internet. Elisad website is going to be managed by Jorunn Moen. A new promotional flyer has been produced, copies of which will be distributed to all at SALIS. 2008 Conference – Elisad at 20 is being held in Turin in October. 2009 Conference is planned for Bucharest.


Reno Meeting, May 2007: Jessica reported on the strategic planning. Working groups were set up and many of the tasks have been completed. A brief summary of key issues was given and actions completed or in progress.

Bylaws Committee Report:
Where required, rules have been updated to include electronic methods. Considerable debate took place regarding quorum for voting; agreed to raise it to 20% of the membership. David Man suggested that the SALIS Manual be updated to incorporate Bylaw changes. Board role descriptions need to be addressed.

Board Meeting Part 2 May 9, 2008
Chair reported that SALIS member Virginia Sanchez is currently serving in Kabul. It was agreed to give her a complimentary full membership. Virginia has requested SALIS’s help in developing a library for troops in Kabul. Agreed that we should look into how this could be done, either as individuals or as SALIS. Meg Brunner agreed to investigate further by looking into donating to special projects, setting up a section on the website.

Areas of focus for next 12 months: Finalise strategic plan, do member market research, continue advocacy regarding library closures/downsizing, publish editorial. Increase SALIS income via vendor links to booksellers. Links to be posted to SALIS Website and SALIS members encouraged to make purchases from these links. SALIS will get 12% from Hazelden purchases, and 4% from Amazon. Julie Murphy agreed to look into igive.com for additional income possibility.

Other areas for development: Mentoring / Surveys; List serve improvements (searching, e.g.), External relationships (with RADAR, e.g.); Preservation of SALIS materials; Update/make electronic SALIS Manual; SALIS-Elisad cooperation; Webcasts (Tech); Newsletters; ATOD bibliographic blog. Bylaws working group to finalise bylaws based on Board decisions, and get the approval vote of membership.

SIGS AND COMMITTEES
Membership committee – Need new members. Barb Weiner will be go-to person for development.
International committee – Sheila, Christine, Andrea Canadian SIG Needs new chair
Info Tech – Nancy, Meg, SALIS Home

Chair to give committees / SIGS guidelines for planning this year – Next year they will be required to submit work plan, goals.

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Agreed to dissolve Education & Outreach committee.

RADAR SIG: e-mail list of RADAR members and a paper should be on SALIS website.

Australia / NZ SIG do not meet – Need for Chair

Document to be prepared for board on SIGs and Committees on how to manage a SIG - Julie Murphy and Jessica to work on this. Nancy Kendall advised that Board not be too directive on SIG operations.

Discussion took place regarding the Home Office operations and how to utilise the skills effectively for SALIS. Board agreed to pay a small monthly stipend to Executive Director.

General Business Meetings

30th SALIS Conference, Seattle, May 6-9, 2008

Business Meeting May 7, 2008

David Man described plans for SALIS 2009, being hosted by Ruth Hart, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The 2010 meeting may be hosted by CASA (David Man) in New York. If anyone is keen to host a meeting please contact the Board.

Treasurer’s report: See Board Minutes pg. 3.

Donations to SALIS can now be made via the website: http://www.salis.org/donations.html.

The links to Amazon and Hazelden affiliates program for purchasing books and other items online will be on the SALIS website soon. Barb encouraged everyone to use these links as it does provide income for SALIS. (Note: this is now available: http://salis.org/resources/new_books.html.

SALIS Home Report: See Board Minutes pg. 3.

Contributions for the Summer issue of SALIS Newsletter were requested.

Website: Meg Brunner was thanked for her work on the website.

Bylaws Update: Jessica Hinkson Desmarais, David Man, and Barb Weiner have been updating Bylaws, per strategy meeting Reno 2007. Plans are to send out final version for review and comment to SALIS members online, and then to have the vote for approval by end of June. See the end of this page for an update on the Bylaws revision.

Business Meeting May 9, 2008

The meeting opened with an announcement. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to SALIS, SALIS will be establishing the Andrea Mitchell Scholarship fund of $1000 (one thousand dollars; this will be a competitive award to cover costs to SALIS conferences.

New Officers 2008-2009

Chair-elect: Julie Murphy
Treasurer: Barbara Weiner
Members at large: Tom Krawzyck, Nancy Kendall and Diane Van Abbe.
David Man becomes New Chair

Committee & SIG Reports:

International: Sheila Lacroix attending EAHIL Get full name it’s something like European Assoc Health to represent SALIS and Elisad interests. Andrea Mitchell planning to attend ELISAD 2008 meeting to represent SALIS. Concern raised re the issue of declining membership for both ELISAD and SALIS.

ELISAD Report: Christine Goodair reported on Elisad’s activities – See Board Minutes pg. 3.

RADAR: Stephanie Asteriadis reported on the uncertain future for RADAR Centers. Agree that it would be good to develop better links with SALIS and to create a list of Centers in order to develop and share knowledge.

Meeting closed with thanks to Team Seattle for organising a successful 2008 Conference.

SALIS Bylaws Revised

David Man, New Chair

The SALIS Board is pleased to report that the revised bylaws, dated July 3, 2008, have been approved by the membership.

The new bylaws are a product of the Reno strategic planning meeting held in May 2007 and replace the bylaws of 1991.

An article describing the process by which the bylaws were revised and the main changes that have been made to them will appear in the next SALIS News. Meanwhile the SALIS Board would like to thank all those who commented on the bylaws, and those members who voted.
We had an impressive turnout of Canadians at the conference this year:
Bette Reimer and Evelyn Souza from the Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC), Diane Van Abbe from the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit (OTRU), Chad Dubeau from the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), Lisa Ferguson from the Canadian Council for Tobacco Control (CCTC), Ed Gregory from the Brewers Association of Canada, and myself, from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). We represented a good cross section of key organizations with provincial and national mandates. We started with a roundtable of what we do, what our positions and services are called and how secure we are in our positions. I think we very much reflect the current state of our profession and our services in these uncertain but interesting times.

Of our group, I am the only one working as a “traditional” librarian, not surprising, considering I work in a university affiliated teaching hospital and research centre. Our services / departments are described with terms such as Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Translation, and Research and Analysis. Our positions have titles such as Information Coordinator, Information Specialist, or Information Officer. We speculated if our positions would be filled should we retire or leave; sadly some of us felt we might not be replaced. It became apparent that a champion who values and understands the service of the librarian / information specialist is essential to maintaining our jobs and services, in particular in smaller organizations which are going electronic and no longer maintaining print collections and where our value in organizing electronic resources may not be recognized. As Ed pointed out, we must be our own champions! It is exciting to see new types of services springing up. For example, Bette Reimer and Evelyn Souza work on CARBC’s SILINK in Vancouver, a service focusing on information dissemination, which includes translating research findings for use by the media and public. This is a very separate service from the traditional reference and research service that the CARBC researchers will receive most likely from the University of Victoria.

Here are a few other highlights from the meeting:

From Ed Gregory:
The Canadian Foundation on Fetal Alcohol Research (CFFAR) was launched in 2007 and is exclusively funded by the Brewers Association of Canada. Grants of up to $40,000 a year for up to 2 years are awarded. Dr. Louise Nadeau is the Chair of the Board of Directors. For further information, visit www.fasdfoundation.ca.

From CARBC:
For an example of SILINK (www.silink.ca) content, see the statistics section where survey data is neatly packaged for quick reference.

From CCTC:
Lisa confirmed that the CCTC Clearinghouse was cut in 2001 and that the very useful fact sheets have been discontinued. However, check out the website, www.cctc.ca, for many categories of resources as well as the Tobacco Control Reference Catalogue with over 25,000 entries and growing.

From CCSA:
Chad highlighted the Addiction News Daily service to which one can subscribe – see the link on the main page of www.ccsa.ca. The website will be redesigned with a new feature: Link to the Best 40 Questions! Chad also assured us that the CCSA will maintain the links to the former Canada’s Drug Strategy publications, which included many best practice documents. The documents seem to have an unstable home on Health Canada’s website and we want to make sure they remain accessible.


Hosting SALIS once again in Canada was a topic of discussion as we struggled with the wording of the theme. It was later decided to be: Setting Sail: Best Practices for the Next Decade. We hope to attract even more Canadian members next year.

Advocacy & International Networking Report
By Sheila Lacroix, CAMH Canada

Present: Barbara Weiner, Andrea Mitchell, Clare Imholtz, Christine Goodair, and Sheila Lacroix. As we share members, these two groups met jointly this year. Our advocacy efforts deal with a problem that is international in scope and we continue to track the growing number of information services either closing or being downsized. To put our own views forward, an editorial is being sent to one of the major journals by summer’s end.

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Technology Committee Report
By Nancy Sutherland, MLS
Director, ADAI Library

The Technology Committee met briefly at the 2008 conference to review our work from the past year and focus attention on new issues and projects. Recent accomplishments by the committee and its members include:

- **SALIS opened an account with Paypal**, which allows online payment to SALIS for a variety of purchases: Membership dues, conference registration & exhibitor fees, and donations to SALIS. This option was used to great effect for the 2008 membership and conference payments.

- **Bookseller Affiliates program**: SALIS has arranged with both Amazon.com and Hazelden to participate in affiliate programs, which pay small fees to SALIS for purchases originating from the SALIS website. A description of this program and links from the SALIS website to the booksellers are found on the “New Books” page under SALIS Resources. This program has already brought much needed-income to SALIS coffers, so bookmark the page to automatically benefit SALIS with your online purchases. (Look for the green “Looking for ATOD Books?” button on the website’s sidebar and on several pages.) [http://salis.org/resources/new_books.html](http://salis.org/resources/new_books.html)

- **New ATOD Serials Database**, replacing and greatly enhancing a previous list of ATOD journals. The database contains records for almost 400 journals, newsletters, and other serials. In addition to being searchable by almost any field, handy canned searches will quickly find titles that are peer-reviewed, free online, non-English, and active vs. non-active. Canned searches are also available for 12 topical areas (e.g. treatment, prevention, criminal justice). [http://lib.adai.washington.edu/salisserials.htm](http://lib.adai.washington.edu/salisserials.htm)

- **Database Masterlist**: This valuable resource was just updated in June 2008 by Barbara Weiner. As ATOD databases are eliminated, it’s ever more helpful to have one place to find the remaining resources. [http://www.salis.org/resources/database_list.html](http://www.salis.org/resources/database_list.html)

- **ATOD Headlines**: Ann Welsh and Christine Goodair are working to create a blog for items of interest to and/or contributed by SALIS members. The blog is intended to be available to the public. More about this in a future issue.

**NOTE re: the SALIS website**: Due to changes in the SALIS Home office, for the foreseeable future the SALIS website will be maintained by Nancy Sutherland, chair of the Technology Committee. To suggest updates or corrections for the SALIS website, please write to: nsutherland@adai.washington.edu.

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**Summer Notes from the Editor**
By Andrea Mitchell, SALIS Director

Here it is August already, with the SALIS @ Thirty anniversary conference three months past. Hopefully this issue of News will remind all of those who attended and inform those who didn’t of the presentations and activities that ensued. Our new Chair, David Man, did two pieces for this issue, and Meg Brunner has taken on a new column entitled, “Perpetual Beta”, where she describes what libraries can do with the Web 2.0 technology.

Meg also volunteered to do the desk-top publishing this issue, and I think you will all agree, did a superb job. The addition of Adobe bookmarks (see left panel) should make reading SALIS News online a bit easier.

Be sure and read the “Highlights” of the Board and Business Meetings and the SIG and committee reports. Again, if you were at the conference it will remind you of what you committed yourself to do for SALIS in the next months. If you were not at the meetings, you will know who is moving SALIS forward, and who to contact should you want to be a part of the team.

SALIS Home has had a number of bumps in the road this year, but it looks like we may be coming into a smooth stretch. A new administrative assistant is currently being trained, and we are aiming to get the Membership list up on the website in a few more weeks. Stay tuned to SALIS-L.

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**New from EMCDDA**

A Cannabis Reader: Global Issues and Local Experiences.
EMCDDA, Lisbon, June 2008.

Member’s Corner
Compiled by Diane Van Abbe
Ontario Tobacco Research Unit

David Man
Librarian
National Center on Addiction & Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA)
dm286@columbia.edu

How long have you been a member of SALIS? I have been member for 12 years and my first conference was in 1997 at Little Rock, AK, so I am pretty long in the tooth.

What organization do you work for and what is your position? My official title is ‘Librarian and Information Specialist’ and I work for The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University. We are not located on the main campus of the university but in a skyscraper in mid-town near Grand Central Station. My office is on the 19th floor and it has a wonderful view of the East River and Brooklyn. CASA calls itself a ‘think tank’ and it has three main areas of interest: public policy, evaluation of treatments, and designing and implementing prevention programs. There are about twenty-five full time researchers to whom I answer, mostly in the form of literature searches and providing articles when these are not available at Columbia.

How has being a member of SALIS enriched your life? As a solo librarian I find the networking offered through SALIS invaluable especially the SALIS conferences. After one of these, I feel recharged and it is exciting to see what one can take away and implement in one's own library. The SALIS list is a wonderful place to come to if one is in need of a question answered or a journal article when all your own resources have been exhausted. Also the wide range of libraries and information centers that constitute SALIS, from RADAR to research, helps one appreciate the many ways in which society offers solutions to the problems of addiction. Most of all it is the people who make up SALIS, the wonderful individuals that I have met and come to know and from whom I have learned so much.

Hobbies outside of work: Much of my time is spent ambling along with my ancient pug dog known as Madama Kiko as she sniffs every other object on our early morning walks. I rescued her from a home when she was two years old in 1996 soon after I joined CASA and she has been a major part of my life ever since. Travel comes second. And then there are the innumerable movies to watch and books to read but most of all I feel very lucky to be living in New York where one can enjoy so much such as the opera, ballet, theater, galleries, etc. many of which can be enjoyed for free or at little cost.

Favorite color: Blue

Favorite Food: Sushi and barbecued ribs but not together.

Favorite book: I like to read non-fiction as I find ‘real’ life interesting enough. I enjoy history, especially about the founding of America and the lives of the presidents. Biographies of writers are also high on my list.

Is there anything else you would like SALIS colleagues to know about you? I have been happily living with my partner Jerry for the past fifteen years and hope to continue to do so for at least another fifteen and I am fortunate to have a stable and happy home life. I am also excited that Barak Obama may become our next president.

Editor’s note: SALIS is also excited that David Man has just become our new “Chair.”

Dan H. Lawrence
Director, Prevention Information Center
Rocky Mountain Center for Health Promotion and Education
danl@rmc.org

How long have you been a member of SALIS? For three years, since November 2005, plus a short stint of 5-6 months in 2003 when I was the Interim Librarian at the Marin Institute.

What organization do you work for and what is your position? I work for the Rocky Mountain Center for Health Promotion and Education as the Director of the Prevention Information Center (PIC). The PIC operates like a state-wide public library (and the de facto “RADAR” clearinghouse) in Colorado, but I get to work in a non-profit setting. How cool is that?

How has being a member of SALIS enriched your life? The brains are fantastic around here! You guys know everything. I started out at this job as a techie librarian-type with very little subject background in the addictions field. Because I work mostly with practitioners, I don’t get as much interaction with the research literature as I’d like. The listserv and our SALIS colleagues have helped provide a research context and a balance of perspectives for providing resource support to people in the field. All of that and the occasional article pdf...

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**Hobbies outside of work:** Home remodeling, woodworking, playing music, reading, watching bad movies, hiking, snow shoeing, chasing my 13 month old son, and re-baby-proofing.

**Favorite color:** Green

**Favorite food:** Pretty much anything with cheese or bacon. Ooh, and ice cream with chunks...oh, but not cheese or bacon.

**Favorite book:** Tough call. The books that impacted me the most when I read them were Thoreau’s *Walden* (at 16) and Dan Millman’s *Way of the Peaceful Warrior* (which I read at 19 when I was going to UC Berkeley, and had just busted up my legs in a motorcycle accident). And more recently...perhaps, Gladwell’s *Tipping Point*.

**Is there anything else you would like SALIS colleagues to know about you?** Professionally, finding SALIS changed my whole approach to my work. I discovered SALIS in the first 3 months of taking my position, having had no experience whatsoever, and attended my first SALIS conference in August 1998. Since then, SALIS and its members have been my guiding stars for establishing a substance abuse reference library for our state and becoming the state substance abuse clearinghouse. Without the dedication to professionalism and the never-ending support, sharing of resources and ideas, one-on-one input from individuals, and current, relevant conference presentations, I would not have been able to build this program. Without the recent SALIS Conference presentations, especially the focus on using technology to support our “Stepping Into the Future”, I wouldn’t have such a clear direction for developing services and approaches to better serve the ATOD information needs of Nevadans in the future.

**Hobbies outside of work:** I knit. I discovered knitting about 5 years ago and find it very meditative and soothing. I’m not that great at anything that has to be a particular size, but I am prolific in shawls, afghans, scarves, dishcloths (they’re the best!), and hats. I get up early in the morning to knit and pretend I’m retired before I go to work.

**Favorite color:** Purple.

**Favorite food:** Cheese: I never found a cheese I didn’t like.

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**Stephanie Asteriadis**
Coordinator
Nevada Prevention Resource Center
sja@unr.edu

**How long have you been a member of SALIS?** I’ve been a member since 1998. I was hired January 1, 1998 and thankfully found SALIS in a bizarre back door way on a special libraries page listserv or something on the ALA website while looking up library ethics. (Since I don’t have an MLS, I thought I should at least find out everything I could about libraries and librarians before I established a library collection).

**What organization do you work for and what is your position?** I work for the Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies (CASAT), a Department in the Division of Health Sciences (as of July 1 2008) at the University of Nevada, Reno. My official title is “Clearinghouse Coordinator” of the state substance abuse clearinghouse funded by the Nevada State Health Division Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency.

**How has being a member of SALIS enriched your life?** Personally, my life has been enriched by the caring support, patience, understanding, camaraderie, mentoring and friendship of many individuals in SALIS, as I—and all of us in the ATOD Information field-- have faced budget cuts, program changes and many other challenges and crises. There is no group I respect, admire or strive to emulate more.
officers, the role of the committees, policies and legal documentation, conference planning guidelines, etc., all pertinent to the operations and activities of an organization such as SALIS. Not gripping stuff but very important for all concerned. Plans are to make this manual electronic and available on the SALIS Website.

Another task the Reno meeting focused on was ‘Sustainability and Development’ which aimed at identifying and tapping into various revenue sources. Spearheaded by Nancy Sutherland and Barb Wiener, one of the ideas floated at the Reno meeting has become a reality, namely to link from the SALIS home page to Amazon and Hazelden. Any purchase made via these links will automatically earn cash for SALIS -- 4% from Amazon purchases or 12% from Hazelden. SALIS is constantly looking at ways to sustain itself and if any member has an idea befitting of SALIS, such as an information product that we could develop and market, please let us know.

Increasing and maintaining membership is a perennial SALIS topic and will probably be with us forever. Eric Helmuth is heading up a team to try to find ways to shore up the membership we already have and to recruit more. Among the existing members, we encourage those who have not done so to stand for elective office. We want to avoid creating a small cabal of members who rotate from one board position to the next. SALIS benefits from new ideas and fresh faces, so please put yourself forward, if you haven’t yet.

At the Board meeting in Seattle it was agreed that a small monthly stipend be paid to Andrea Mitchell as SALIS Executive Director. This barely covers the time and effort Andrea devotes to keeping the home fires burning, so to speak. The tasks of the Executive Director include: managing the home office, editing the newsletter, representing SALIS at various meetings, monitoring and paying the bills, and recruiting, training and supervising the SALIS home administrative assistant.

All of us are working in a field whose main focus impacts the lives of millions. Our members provide a variety of services to help overcome the challenges that the disease of addiction raises in a number of settings including: academic research, prevention, and treatment. We are librarians and information technology experts and as such our diversity is our strength. SALIS is now over thirty years old and going from strength to strength thanks to you its members.

An important part of my job is to listen to what you have to say and you can always contact me at the following email: dm286@columbia.edu

messaging, blogs, RSS feeds, social bookmarking and collaborative workspaces was given showing how simple these technologies are to use.

Kathy Bryce and Denise Bonin of Andornot Consulting, explored the use of Web 2.0 to enhance online catalogs in order to make them more useful to users. The question they raised was, “How do you add value to a catalog beyond bibliographic information?” The answer: by adding comments and ratings to catalog entries. An interesting concept which raises the issue of how to rate: is it open to abuse, and could it destroy the impartial nature of library catalogs?

Shirley Dellenback demonstrated the development of California’s proprietary web-based library system for tobacco control information, which has the ultimate goal of connecting California’s tobacco control users with timely and important information.

Stephanie Asteriadis and Marie Tully showed us R.O.A.R., Resource Ordering And Reporting, an innovative online ordering system that enables staff to organize and track inventory, and generate reports on the distribution of materials. The system is not off the shelf but one that was built practically from the ground up by the University of Nevada’s Center for Application of Substance Abuse Technologies I.T. team, with astute input from Marie Tully.

Tracking information in a virtual environment was also the focus of Lisa Swanberg’s talk. SAMHSA’s Health Information Network has been evolving from being a warehouse of resources where clients placed orders by phone or mail, to using new interactive technologies to ensure that information can be delivered electronically to clients on demand.

Barbara Weiner’s presentation began with a brief overview of traditional library approaches versus virtual library approaches, and how the virtual has great advantages over the traditional. However, when access to the virtual is housed in physical space that patrons find uncomfortable and inviting then patrons will be more keenly aware of the discomfort of their physical surroundings.

The Center for Alcohol Studies (CAS) at Rutgers Unive-
sity, has a new director of information services, Judit Ward, who showed with a PowerPoint presentation about how she had made changes to the library’s staffing and physical layout, to better position it to take advantage of new technologies. Judit also recorded the SALIS conference with a series of photographs that can be viewed here: http://www.flickr.com/photos/26373330@N02

These sessions all demonstrated how “IT literate” librarians and information managers are today, and how they are aware of the need to change and adapt to the 21st century. However it seems that the problems they have to face involve misunderstandings by employers, funders, and users who still have the view that libraries are old fashioned and not as good as Google or the Internet. A challenge indeed.

Christine Goodair of the International Centre for Drug Policy, London, explored the need for libraries to engage with their user communities. For example many researchers now do their own literature searches, use social networks to find data and information from colleagues and use libraries less. The question this raises is how do libraries add value? To read the research report entitled, Researchers’ Use of Academic Libraries and their Services’ go to http://www.rin.ac.uk/files/libraries-report-2007.pdf.

Complementing Christine’s paper was the one given by Susan Barnes, from the University of Washington, who explored how to do a community assessment in order to build a picture of your community and whether your health information project is necessary and viable. This means using information you have and knowing what exists so as to avoid duplicating services and resources.

Tania Danielski of the Haines Borough Public Library in Alaska showed how the library had taken the opportunity offered by a grant from The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) "to address local needs, increase civic engagement and improve the quality of life in your community." The Library partnered with Lynn Canal Broadcasting KHNS-FM and went out into the community to find individuals willing to talk and be recorded about their experiences with drugs and alcohol for a series called “Radio Diaries.” The impact on the lives of those who made these recordings and on those who listened was profound. For more details on this fascinating project visit: http://www.voicesproject.org.

The conference not only focused on information technologies and libraries but also on the other side of the SALIS coin, the addiction field itself. Barbara Leigh, a senior researcher at ADAI gave a fascinating talk on how she uses technologies to collect data from her subjects. Using web surveys and cell phones she was able to track users and collect valuable data. Handing out a cell phone to an addict may not sound like a good idea but when it is dedicated to calling only one number, the researcher’s center, it loses its street value but is invaluable to the researcher. Collecting data via cell phones is popular with the drug users as it is less intrusive than questionnaires. Barbara went on to describe some plans to develop similar research on alcohol use among college students with the aim of using mobile phones to deliver brief interventions.

T. Ron Jackson of Evergreen Treatment Services, Seattle, showed how evidence based practices in the addictions treatment field has drawn upon research and empirical data. He stressed the importance of libraries and librarians as being crucial to finding sources of accurate and high quality research. He also discussed the difficulties of translating research outcomes into practice given the differences between an academic setting and a treatment setting, and referred to the website RE-AIM, which enables researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to evaluate health behavior interventions, and can be used to estimate the potential impact of interventions on public health http://www.re-aim.org/.

Turning to topics concerning substance misuse, Bob Denniston, Director, Media Campaign Office of National Drug Control Policy, provided an interesting overview of how a social marketing campaign is reducing teen prescription drug abuse. This campaign has been set up to inform teenagers and parents of the growing problem of prescription drug abuse, and the harms that these drugs can do. Bob described the campaign’s features such as mass advertising, point of purchase messages done through working with pharmacists, and most successfully launching the campaign through the Super Bowl. For further information about the campaign and to see examples of the literature: http://www.mediacampaign.org/newsroom/press08/012408.html.

(Continued on page 11)
Methamphetamine use continues to be an issue in the US and Dennis Donovan, Director of the Alcohol & Drug Institute (ADAI), University of Washington, described the treatment of methamphetamine abuse using a twelve-step facilitation approach, since to date no pharmacotherapies have been found effective in reducing methamphetamine use. The use of a twelve-step facilitation process is being monitored for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

Moving on to other information important to AOD information professionals, Paul Candon, the editor of the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs (JSAD) gave us an interesting talk on how the journal has evolved and where he hopes to take the journal in the future. He also gave us an insight into the life cycle of a journal article, from the author’s keyboard to publication. He concluded by covering the issues of electronic publishing, the challenges of open access, and electronic archiving for journal publishers in the 21st century.

One of the highlights of the conference was a tour of the stunning new Seattle Central Public Library designed by Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas. http://www.spl.lib.wa.us/

Jessica Hinkson Desmarais introduced us to the library in advance of the tour with a description of several newer technologies it uses, such as RFID to sort and route more than 1,200 items per hour along the "Books Spiral," a two-degree gentle ramp leading to dumbwaiters that sort and place books by call number or branch library location. On the tour itself it was interesting to note that in the huge “reading room” there were hundreds of computers connected to the internet, each one was occupied by a patron.

Eric Helmuth in the final talk of the conference warned of some of the pitfalls of using mass emailing and how to maintain such databases so that they are not only useful but also enhance the image of the organization using them. Keeping clean lists, maintaining content so that it is fresh and relevant, and avoiding making your users feel overwhelmed or bombarded by too many emails were just some of the points Eric covered.

Concurrent with the conference were a number of poster sessions, including, How to make DOCLINE Work for You, demonstrating how the National Library of Medicine’s inter library loan system could be used for SALIS libraries; Illustrating and Interpreting Statistics, a web based knowledge translation project which showed how to present balanced information via a website on drug and alcohol use in British Columbia; and Reaching Out: Filling the Gaps by Developing and Disseminating Knowledge Exchange Products which covered how the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit has been researching ways to meet user information needs more effectively through the development of new information products.

Julie Murphy and Meg Brunner’s poster session Open Access: It’s the Law! was a timely reminder of the NIH’s new open access policy. This will require that researchers who are funded by the NIH must submit to the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed Central an electronic version of any article accepted for publication, no later than 12 months after the date of publication. See: http://publicaccess.nih.gov/. A white paper published by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) gives a lot of details on the implications of this new policy: http://www.arl.org/sparc/bm~doc/NIH_Copyright_v1.pdf.

Due to space considerations, it was not possible to write about every presentation here. Many of the presentations will be available in the members-only section of the SALIS Website: http://salis.org.
It was decided to work towards promoting the work of Elisad and SALIS together. A business card has been developed with both logos and websites to distribute at the EAHIL Conference in Helsinki, which I attended. Let me know if you would like some to distribute. I can either send you a small supply or the electronic file, which can be printed on business card “labels.” The EAHIL (European Association for Health Information and Libraries) was well attended, with diverse activities and presentations. One realizes how small the world really is: same issues, same challenges, same vendors. The pace was a bit more relaxed than North American conferences, with longer breaks and more time for networking. EAHIL will be in Dublin next year. Louise Farragher, Health Research Board, Ireland, who attended the SALIS Boston conference, is on the organizing committee.

We hope that having the SALIS conference on the east coast (Halifax 2009 and New York 2010) will draw more of our European membership. In the meantime, we must continue to think globally, strengthen existing networks and try to promote our organization in parts of the world such as South and Central America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa if possible.

SALIS Conference
May 5-8, 2009
"Setting Sail: Best Practices for the Next Decade" is the theme of the 31st Annual SALIS Conference, to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, on May 5-8, 2009.

Steeped in history and rich in culture, Halifax is a beautiful maritime city and one of the oldest towns in North America. The city features a large natural harbor, several universities, an increasing IT sector, and a burgeoning arts and music scene.

The meeting will be hosted by Ruth Hart, Knowledge Manager in the Nova Scotia Department of Health and the NS Department of Health Promotion and Protection. More details about the 2009 SALIS conference will be posted on the SALIS conference web site as they become available, so check back often!

http://salis.org/conference/conference.html

Even better, setting up your own blog is something you can do very quickly. All you have to do is pick the blogging application you want to use (I recommend Wordpress.com, which is free and very easy to learn), open an account, choose a template from dozens of available design options, give your blog a name, and start writing! If you can create a Word document, you can figure out how to write a blog post, so don’t be afraid to give it a try!

Don’t think you have A) the time for blogging or B) enough content? That’s where TWITTER.COM might work for you. Twitter is a relative newcomer to the scene, but its popularity has skyrocketed thanks to its myriad uses.

Some individuals use Twitter simply to let their friends know what they’re up to (“I am having pizza for lunch.”). Others use it to showcase their wit or sense of humor (“Just saw the trailer for Indiana Jones and the USB Drive That Will Not Under Any Circumstances Eject. Looks awesome!”).

But organizations can use it as a way to create a very simple “micro-blog,” periodically posting short pieces of information (“Tweets”) to let their users quickly see what’s new. Once you have a Twitter account set up, you can feed your Tweets into your web site using RSS feeds, creating a news runner (I’ll explain how to do that in a future column!). And any of your users who have their own Twitter accounts can “follow” your Tweets, seeing your updates every time they visit Twitter, or subscribing to them via RSS.

Twitter would be a great way to make quick announcements, such as “The library will be closed on Monday for staff training,” or “Join us tomorrow at noon for a brown bag lecture on college student gambling.” You could even feature a “resource of the day” using Twitter, posting a URL and brief description of a database or web site you think is great, or the title of a new book you just got for your collection.

Tweets are limited to 140 characters (including spaces), so there’s never any pressure to get fancy. It’s about as quick, easy, and low-tech as you can get. And, even better, it’ll make you look like a 2.0 superstar!
Here are a couple of examples of libraries that are using blogs and/or Twitter. Spend a few minutes poking around on them and you may find yourself getting inspired!

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute News blog includes links to tables of contents for new journals, news items related to the field, local events & trainings, book reviews, introductions to new staff, and more: http://adai.typepad.com/adai_news/

Western CT State University Libraries feeds the titles of their blog posts via RSS to the right column on their home page -- you could easily do this with your Twitter tweets as well: http://library.wcsu.edu/web/

Northeastern Illinois University library blog includes details about new web site features, notices about special events (book sales, etc.), highlights of new publications, etc.: http://neiuninfo.org/librarynews/

Yale University Science Libraries has a whole page dedicated to their social networking activities, including a news runner for their Tweets: http://www.library.yale.edu/science/socialnetworking.html. Actual Twitter page: http://twitter.com/yalescilib

Scarborough Library feeds their tweets to a box on their home page in a little news runner (is using a widget for this made for free at Widgetbox.com): http://www.shepherd.edu/libweb/services/Outreach/

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater library tweets about interesting articles in new magazines/journals, summer reading recommendations, new displays in the library, and more! http://twitter.com/UWWlibrary

Windward Community College library tweets include links to library surveys, and area news they think their patrons would be interested in (“They’re shooting footage for an episode of ‘Lost’ on campus today!” e.g.): http://twitter.com/wcclibrary

Find some more examples of Twittering libraries here: http://del.icio.us/megwood/twitter. I’ll add more as I find them!

Got a topic you’d like to see covered in a future installment of Perpetual Beta? Email Meg at meganw@u.washington.edu.

In the next Perpetual Beta? “Mmm, These Bookmarks Sure are Del.icio.us!”

More Photos from the 2008 SALIS Conference in Seattle

The conference photos in this issue of SALIS News were taken by Judit Ward, Andrea Mitchell, and Julie Murphy.

Librarian Tattoos: Much coveted door prizes!

Pam Miles checks out the exhibits @ SALIS 2008.

Read the complete conference program on the 2008 conference page.


(Continued on page 15)


Oei, Tian Po and Namrata Raylu. *Gambling and Problem Gambling Among the Chinese.* Brisbane : School of Psychology, University of Queensland, c2007. 156 p. Note: "This is a report submitted to the Research and Community Engagement Division, Queensland Office of Gambling Regulation, Queensland Treasury ..." ISBN: 977552004 (spiralbound), 97809775552009

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We’re on the web!
http://www.salis.org

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