SALIS/AMHL 2019
What a Great Conference!
Sheila Lacroix, SALIS

I was so fortunate to be able to attend the conference in Boston. Although retired and not supporting a workplace environment, I still found it so engaging and a useful way to keep in the loop. This is important to my involvement in The SALIS Collection. And, let’s face it, as citizens, there are constantly public health challenges to address with our political representatives such as the opioid crisis, homelessness, and the loosening of alcohol controls in my home province, Ontario, Canada. The more we know, the more effectively we can communicate and advocate.

I presented on the topic of cannabis in Canada, as the production, sale, and use of cannabis for recreational purposes became legal in Canada as of October 2018. It was a practical overview outlining the federal legislation and the division of responsibility between the federal government and the provinces and territories, which are responsible for distribution and sales. Ontario, my home province, was used as a case study.

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Report From the Chair
Barbara Weiner, Retired
Formerly of Hazelden Betty Ford

The 42st SALIS/4th SALIS/AMHL annual conference was held April 23-26, 2019, Boston, MA, USA provided an invigorating setting, with meetings taking place in the Harvard Medical School Library. Speakers provided informative presentations about intriguing topics. Networking, as always, was invaluable—professional peers and friends working together toward common goals.

SALIS Chair Chad Dubeau was unable to attend the conference, sending his sincere regrets. His effective and calm leadership was definitely missed, but his continued input and assistance is greatly appreciated! At conference time, Chad moved into the Past-Chair role, and I, Barb Weiner, moved into the chair role.

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A definite highlight was the venue. How amazing and a bit macabre to pass by, on the way to sessions, exhibits of specimens and artwork of the Warren Anatomical Museum housed in the Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, where we met. This was a reminder of how uncomfortable and risky medical procedures were in our not so distant past and how much population level health and safety has improved over the years.

Although the number of attendees was low, enthusiasm and energy were apparent. Host Len Levin and his team must be commended for the calibre of speakers and the program. The range of topics presented by both guest presenters and SALIS and AMHL members held our interest. I will highlight three presentations that stood out for me, but I must emphasize that I found the whole program engaging.

The screening and following discussion of *After Incarceration, There’s Life Beyond the Wall* led by substance abuse counselor and re-entry worker Louie Diaz was memorable. The tenacity, skills and compassion of Diaz as shown in the footage, and that we witnessed in person, are remarkable. The film was a realistic, in depth portrayal of real lives, over extended periods of time, highlighting both the personal struggles and the impact of challenging environments faced by those who slip into substance abuse problems and related crime. Obvious were the impacts of poverty, racism, injustice and poor public policy on many fronts.

The presentation by SALIS member Meg Brunner, University of Washington, *The Opioid Crisis and Public Libraries* really struck a chord with me as I advocate for affordable housing, both market and nonmarket, through another organization. The work being done to train library staff to deal with the crisis of overdose in our public spaces is commendable yet adds another responsibility to the challenging work of serving the full spectrum of the public. How many of our public institutions provide the safe space that is provided by our public libraries? This is an under-recognized burden. I feel librarians are showing an admirable responsibility that should share and receive more support within a broader framework of government supported services.

The true story of Phineas Gage, presented by Sheldon Benjamin, University of Massachusetts Medical School, was truly fascinating, more so given we continually passed by the exhibit showing the injured skull and the tamping iron that caused the injury. Through his brain injury caused by the tamping iron passing right through his skull after a dynamite explosion in 1848, poor Phineas never knew that his experience would be a landmark case in the advancement of neuropsychiatry. His injury would open doors in understanding frontal lobe damage. That he miraculously survived after the injury meant records from primary sources of his behaviour, functioning, and recovery remain, resulting in progress in linking anatomy to mental status and function.

Bringing SALIS and AMHL together for another conference continues to expand our potential for learning and working together in our overlapping areas of study and research. It was yet another memorable conference and may there be many more. □
I look forward to being SALIS Chair for 2019-2020! Let me introduce myself. I graduated from the library school at the University of Minnesota Minneapolis, USA, a lo-o-o-ng time back, worked for a year at the medical library at the U of MN, a year at the Macalester College academic library (St. Paul, MN), and then moved to the Hazelden Library at Center City, MN. Through this job I was introduced to SALIS, and attended my first conference in the mid 1980s. SALIS Has been vital in helping the Hazelden Library be effective and professional for the counselors, researchers, clinicians, administrators, and others who utilize the library. I am a firm believer in the power and importance of networking locally, nationally, and beyond, having been an active partner in Docline, Minitex, and various regional library networks. Networking is such an important two-way street—giving and receiving!!

In February 2019, I retired after 34 years at Hazelden Betty Ford, but plan to stay active in SALIS!

During the conference, the SALIS Board reviewed the Home Report, Treasurer’s Report, and other committee and SIG updates. Special topics discussed included:

- fundraising beyond membership fees and conference income
- membership updates and recruitment efforts
- social media updates
- SALIS Collection details and progress
- technology: moving the DIGS Project list to Google Sheets, transferring the SALIS website to Wordpress

The Board also brainstormed new approaches, including: increasing involvement of current SALIS members, promoting more communication between current SALIS membership, and including a photo of members alongside their directory listing. Other ideas included moving conferences to every other year, creating a member-only education portal on the SALIS website, and changing governance details.

Two SALIS business meetings were held during the conference, which reviewed much of the above. Two issues remained unresolved at the conference conclusion—finalizing a location for the 2020 conference, and securing a full roster of names to complete a ballot. The Board will continue to work on these issues.

In fact, the conference reminded me of the famous Margaret Mead quote: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” SALIS and AMHL members continued their active involvement in the information side of the mental health and drug/alcohol fields. Important and unique projects continue, and group and individual sharing and assistance is ongoing. My particular goals for this next year in SALIS include increasing communications between membership, continuing effective progress of the SALIS Collection, and continuing the conversation of a health and effective future for SALIS!
Advocacy Report/Digs Update
Sheila Lacroix and Andrea Mitchell

If you read the last update on Digs in the Fall-Winter issue of SALIS News, you already know that at that time we had made our goal of adding 700 books/items by the end of the year (2018), and had decided to go for 1,000 items as our goal for 2019.

The good news is approximately 1800 books/docs were donated to the SALIS Collection in May by the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI.) This was in direct response to the “golden opportunity” which I also mentioned in the last Digs Update. This golden opportunity was an offer from Brewster Kahle, Director of the Internet Archive, to pay for digitizing any full collections which could be donated to IA. Nancy Sutherland, Director of the ADAI Library, and staff boxed up a great deal of their library, minus the journals and items which were already in The SALIS Collection. The boxes were put on pallets and shipped to the IA. We are now all waiting for them to be added to the Collection. This could take a while, so be patient.

The Advocacy Committee/Digs Team met during the SALIS-AMHL Conference in Boston and discussed the two major issues facing the Digs Project. First, our biggest priority, the need for a new platform to replace the ADAI InMagic Database we have been using since 2014 to track/monitor the donations made and update their status.

Second was the issue concerning the golden opportunity and the fact that ADAI had been informed that they had to get rid of their print collection. Director of the ADAI library, Nancy Sutherland had sent an e-mail to SALIS Home to confirm that she was intending to donate the entire print collection minus journals, to the Dig project. This indeed is a huge donation to The SALIS Collection, and means as stated above, that we have already achieved our goal of 1,000 items for 2019. But since we do not know if they will all be digitized by years end, we must continue to work as usual adding as many items as we can from other donations, or by uploading.

Note: Although ADAI is eliminating most of its print collection, they will keep some of their databases, such as the Instruments database.

Regarding the first issue—the need for a new tracking database—Meg Brunner pushed for the idea of using a Google spreadsheet platform—openly accessible and functioning comparable to Excel. As of now, she has set up this spreadsheet for the Digs administrators and will soon be giving instructions on how to use. Several of the administrators are beginning to experiment with the new platform, one has already entered a few records and a few additional fields may be needed, but we all must start adding and editing records to be able to discover the needs, and or problems, if any. A big thank-you to Meg Brunner for creating and getting us started on this new platform! Christine Goodair received a donation of 150 books for the project and will be checking to see which titles should be added to the collection. The Society for the Study of Addictions has offered to pay the shipping to the IA. Promoting the project was also discussed at the Advocacy meeting and some ideas were noted.

### SALIS in the World’s Literature - A Bibliography
Barb Weiner, SALIS Chair

SALIS—as an alcohol and drug information organization and advocate—is firmly established within global literature resources.

A recent extensive review found almost 60 articles and documents in which SALIS is discussed and highlighted.

Items about SALIS were located via searches in the medical database, various EBSCO databases, a newspaper database, WorldCat, the Hazelden Betty Ford Library catalog, and general internet searching. A request was sent to SALIS membership, seeking their input of pertinent articles, especially grey literature items (such as created by individual organizations) which did not become entered into the formal databases.

The resulting items ranged in years from 1981 to the present. Sources included journals, newspapers, newsletters, books, directories, and electronic resources— all located within the literature of Australia, Canada, European countries, India, New Zealand, and the United States.

One of the delightful challenges of this project was learning that the acronym/word “SALIS” is not unique to our organization! It quickly became apparent that “salis” is a word in the Catalan, Esperanto, French, and Latin languages. In Catalan it means “to leave,” and in Latin it means “salt” or “wit.” The common Latin phrase cum grano salis translates to “with a grain of salt.” “Salis” is also a frequent surname, is an acronym for several other phrases, is used in various wellness products or services, and is part of the Latin name of many bacterium.

And don’t forget the Salis Series (about Australian salt lakes), the SALIS antibody (first discovered in Asia), and the 1609 Battle of Salis (in the Polish-Swedish War!)

**Let’s celebrate our worldwide impact!**
Find the complete list of literature here:
2019 Conference Photos

David Man at Holworthy Hall (photo: J. Murphy)

Inside the Widener Library, where the group had a tour (photo: J. Murphy)

Below: the group on the field trip to Widener.
2019 Conference Photos

The Widener Library namesake (photo: J. Murphy)

Inside the Widener Library (photo: J. Murphy)

The conference location: Countway Library (photo: M. Brunner)

Using the Short Story Dispenser in the Countway Library lobby (photo: M. Brunner)
2019 Conference Photos

Len Levin (photo: M. Brunner)

Christine Goodair (M. Brunner)

Meg Brunner (photo: J. Murphy)

Above: Sheldon Benjamin (with Sheila Lacroix) photo: M. Brunner

Below: Sheila Lacroix (J. Murphy) Below: Isabelle Michot (from afar!) (M. Brunner)
**Review of Cannabis Crashes: Myths & Truths**

Rhys Stevens, Librarian III, University of Lethbridge


The possibility of death or injury is ever-present when it comes to the everyday act of driving a motor vehicle. Unsurprisingly, the level of risk involved is greatly magnified when a driver is severely under the influence of alcohol or psychoactive substances. Governments around the world have attempted to reduce traffic crashes by introducing preventative measures. Common example of measures used to detect performance deficits from alcohol have included the Breathalyzer and field sobriety tests. Such measures are typically introduced based upon scientific research investigations that provide rigorous scientific evidence about levels of alcohol impairment, how to accurately test for it, and how it affects driving performance.

With the recent introduction of legalized cannabis in North American jurisdictions (including Canada in 2018 as well as U.S. states including Colorado, California and Washington), governments have hurriedly introduced measures designed to minimize cannabis-related traffic crashes. Some such measures are seemingly borrowed from the alcohol-impaired evidence-base despite concerns about their direct applicability. Questions also linger about the quality of the available peer-reviewed scientific literature on cannabis performance deficits and the appropriateness of such findings for use in the development of traffic legislation. In his book *Cannabis Crashes: Myths & Truths*, Dr. Scott Macdonald seeks to provide answers to the aforementioned questions by systematically analyzing the objective scientific literature on cannabis performance deficits, assessing the validity of biological tests for cannabis impairment and determining the effectiveness of existing laws for improving traffic safety.

One of the first things readers will notice about *Cannabis Crashes: Myths & Truths* is that it was self-published and for this reason some may be skeptical about its content. Any concerns I had were immediately put to rest after reviewing the qualifications of Dr. Macdonald and the impressive list of scholars who contributed “content advice.” The author’s background in epidemiology and biostatistics makes him eminently qualified to provide assessments of research studies that examine performance deficits resulting from substance use. He is scientist at the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR) at the University of Victoria and has spent his 40-year research career investigating the relationships between substance use (primarily alcohol, cannabis and cocaine) and injuries. These investigations have resulted in 100+ peer-reviewed publications and more than 20 appearances as an expert witness in court hearings involving drug testing in the workplace.

Throughout the book, Macdonald brings to bear his epidemiological training and extensive research experience in the field of substance abuse. The book’s eight chapters follow a logical progression which begins with an orientation to the existing legislation surrounding alcohol and cannabis impairment and how they are assessed (Ch. 2). Next, detection approaches for both substances are reviewed (Ch. 3) and in this chapter Macdonald also includes useful guidance about how to interpret summary statistics and correlations presented in research studies (pp. 32-34). The pharmacokinetics of alcohol and cannabis (Ch. 4) and their long-term effects (Ch. 6) receive brief but useful overviews.

The book’s two most substantial chapters examine laboratory studies of substance use and performance (Ch. 5) and observational studies of alcohol and cannabis risk in crashes (Ch. 7). In both, Macdonald reviews methodological issues and statistical flaws from noteworthy and influential research studies. He then evaluates these limitations against five key epidemiological criteria (pp. 79-84) useful for interpreting the meaning of findings from these studies. Criteria included are: bias; control for confounding; measurement error; strength of association, and; difference between causation and correlation. These two chapters are a particular strength of the book as Macdonald delivers clear and reasoned explanations about why study findings can all too often be considered problematic from an epidemiological perspective.

In the concluding chapter (Ch. 8), Macdonald sums up the misconceptions about cannabis use and impairment and includes a handy table (pp. 105-107) that highlights these myths and truths. He also speculates on the possible origins of influential myths and how myths can be inadvertently introduced into research findings. This final section circles back to laws for impaired driving with specific attention given to the implications of Canada’s cannabis-impaired laws. An extensive bibliography and a surprisingly useful glossary of terms which I found myself referring to frequently round out the book. The omission of an index is a minor detriment.

In summary, *Cannabis Crashes: Myths & Truths* will be highly relevant to those policy-makers and lawyers seeking to heighten their understanding of the scientific evidence base used to detect alcohol and cannabis performance deficits and to assess cannabis-impaired driving. It will also be of interest to students and academics as it provides guidance for understanding limitations of study findings in substance use research and points out critical directions for future cannabis research. Overall, Macdonald has achieved what he set out to accomplish in this book which was “…to better understand what different laws aimed at minimizing cannabis-impaired driving are likely to achieve” (p. 6).

1 The World Health Organization estimates in its *Global status report on road safety 2018* that 1.35-million people die annually as a result of road traffic crashes and between 20 and 50 million more suffer non-fatal injuries. 2 In Canada and the U.S., impairment from alcohol has a legal definition, typically defined as a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) cut-off level of .05% or .08% alcohol with legislation that prohibits driving at these levels (p. 7).
Strategies for Addressing the Opioid Crisis in the United States and Canada: Cross-Border Knowledge Sharing

Both Canada and the United States (U.S.) have been experiencing increasing rates of opioid related harms in recent years with overdose or poisoning deaths reaching staggering numbers. These increases have prompted both countries to try to understand better how this crisis emerged — an exploration that has revealed complex and multifaceted precursors including social factors, physical conditions and gaps in the healthcare system, to name a few.

As Canada and the U.S. take action to respond to these factors, both countries acknowledge the need for comprehensive, collaborative and evidence-based approaches to address the crisis. While harrowing, the situation presents an opportunity for both countries to learn from the expertise and strategies implemented on either side of the border.

To gain a more nuanced understanding of each countries’ approaches to addressing this crisis and to foster learnings on both sides of the border, the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA), with support from the U.S. embassy in Ottawa, invited U.S. experts to its Issues of Substance conference, hosted a one-day expert forum and a speaker series in six Canadian cities. This report summarizes these discussions.

Clearing the Smoke on Cannabis

Regular Use and Mental Health
Reviews research about the relationship between cannabis use and a number of mental health conditions. Findings of the report indicate that people who use cannabis regularly could be at greater risk of developing psychosis or schizophrenia and that people with mental health conditions are more than twice as likely to use cannabis regularly.

Regular Use and Cognitive Functioning
Reviews research about the relationship between cannabis use and cognitive functioning. Findings of the report indicate that, although regular cannabis use is associated with changes in brain structure and function, the impact on cognitive functions is generally mild for most people and that many of the measurable effects on these functions disappear after sustained periods of not using cannabis.

Changes in Stimulant Use and Related Harms: Focus on Methamphetamine and Cocaine

In response to recent reports of increasing harms related to methamphetamine use in Canada, this bulletin summarizes recent changes in stimulant-related harms in Canadian communities. It is intended for a broad audience of health professionals, law enforcement, harm reduction and health service providers, policy makers, and people who use drugs. The stimulants causing the greatest harms in Canada are methamphetamine and cocaine powder and crack cocaine.

New Interactive Data Visualization Tool for Exploring Costs and Harms of Substance Use in Canada

Substance use cost the Canadian economy $38.4 billion in 2014. That amounts to approximately $1,100 for every Canadian regardless of age. The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, is pleased to announce the release of an online data visualization tool that will allow users to explore the costs and harms of substance use in Canada by the following categories:

- Province or territory
- Year: from 2007 to 2014
- Type of substance, including alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, opioids and other central nervous system (CNS) depressants, cocaine and other CNS stimulants, and other substances such as hallucinogens and inhalants
- Cost category: health, lost productivity, criminal justice and other costs
- Age, sex and health condition (where available)
New Books
By Andrea L. Mitchell, MLS, Librarian


(Continued on page 11)


Koenraadt , Rosa. The Illicit Medicines Trade from Within: An Analysis of the Demand and Supply Sides of the Illicit


MacDonald, Scott. Cannabis Crashes: Myths & Truths. Self-published, 2018. 156 p. (scottmac@uvic.ca)


Walitzer, Kimberly S., Jerry L Deffenbacher, and Molly S Rath. *Anger Management Based Alcohol Treatment: Integrated Therapy for Anger and Alcohol Use Disorder*. (Continued on page 13)
New Volume of SALIS Journal is Out!

The new volume/issue of Substance Abuse Library and Information Studies (often referred to as “SALIS Journal,” our e-proceedings) is now available here: http://www.salis.org/salisjournal/vol5.htm

This volume features articles from the 2018 conference about:

- The librarian as an intellectual (Ward)
- Drug policy reform in a time of Trump (Reinarman, a transcript of his conference presentation)
- Fake or false news and how to spot it (Goodair)
- The history of the documentation on addiction in France (Michot)
- Using a current awareness service to report on addictions trends (Dubeau)
- The SALIS Collection (Lacroix, Mitchell, Weiner), and
- Critical librarianship (Brunner)

http://salis.org/salisjournal


