

# Making a difference: Past SALIS conferences from 1978 to present

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*SALIS held its first conference in Houston, Texas in 1978. As an encore to the proceedings of the 2014 conference hosted by the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies (CAS) in New Brunswick, NJ in 2014, this paper reviews briefly the chronology of the SALIS conferences, followed by a complete list of the events. Each entry includes the date and place of the conference, the host, and the theme of the conference, if applicable.*

One of the oldest conference proceedings related to alcoholism on the shelves at the CAS Library is the *Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> international Congress Against Alcoholism* dated 1901 in German, which, bound in the bright red color of the CAS McCarthy Collection, contains photocopied pages of stenogram transcripts of presentations as well as comments that would go along with the talks. Later editions feature lists of previous conferences to date on the back cover. This gave us the idea to collect all available information about past SALIS conferences to add value to the *Substance Abuse Library and Information Studies eProceedings*.

Conference data related to events from 1998 to present were mostly available on the SALIS web site, while information related to events prior to 1998 were collected from SALIS News and the CAS Archives, including the missing fields. The records below are organized in reverse chronological order, and include the conference sequence, the exact dates and locations, the hosts, and the theme of the conference, if applicable.

With a detailed and accurate list of these events, the main goal is to showcase the wealth of knowledge accumulated during these years, as the reflected by the conference titles in red. The topics, in relation to the year of the conference also indicate how quick SALIS members were to absorb what was

going on around them in the world of information science and technology, as well as in the field of addiction studies. Not only did SALIS respond to the challenges, but we have been proactive by embracing change over time.

Networking, which seems to be a new buzzword in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, shows up as conference theme as early as in 1981 at the conference held in Berkeley, CA. SALIS librarians, often working alone, have always understood the importance of being connected with like-minded peers. Many of them, feeling like working in a vacuum, might have found instant support and answers to their questions in the organization. This theme returns several times, for example in 1984 in Chicago, or under a variety of other related names, such as *knowledge sharing* in 2002 in Washington, DC and *creating partnerships* in 2012 in Reno, NV. Joint conferences, such as the LISA/SALIS joint conference in 1983 (Toronto, ON), SALIS/LISA/DRACON conference in 1985 (New Brunswick, NJ), or later in 2006, the SALIS/Elisad conference in Boston proves excellent relationship and ventures to international realms.

Notable is the topic of the 4<sup>th</sup> conference, *What Impact – Technology?* in 1982, when no one yet foreshadowed how changing technology would later reshape our entire world. *Information technology* and *innovation* are recurring topics in 1997 (Little Rock, AR), 2005 (Chicago, IL), 2010 (New York, NY), and 2011 (Kansas City, MO). On a related note, more than ten conferences focused on changes, challenges, and the future, starting as early as 1986 in Hanover, NH already *Approaching the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The challenges of the upcoming new century seem to continue to enrich SALIS in 1997 (Little Rock, AR) with a communication/technology topic and in New York City with a theme *AOD inY2K and Beyond* in 2000. Other conferences around the turn of the century were also looking for solutions to the challenges of the new demands while *Breaking Away: Changing the Way We Work* (1999, Bloomington, IN) and exploring *New Frontiers in Alcohol and*

*Drug Information* (2001, Anchorage, AK). Assuming a more assertive role in these changes seem to be the cohesive force at later conferences, with SALIS librarians *Making Waves for Change* (2004, Berkeley, CA), *Stepping into the Future* (2008, Seattle, WA), *Setting Sail* (2009, Halifax, Nova Scotia), and *Changing the Landscape* (2013, Berkeley, CA).

These last ones are reiterations of the most popular topic of SALIS conferences, namely, the role of libraries and librarians in the dissemination of appropriate resources to broad audiences. Communities and what librarians can do to empower them were the focus in 1988 (Seattle, WA), 1989 (Minneapolis, MN), 1992 (Nashville, TN), 1993 (San Francisco, CA), 1995 (Boston, MA), and 2005 (Chicago, IL). SALIS librarians and information specialists examined their roles *From Research to Practice* (1990, Toronto, ON), provided a SALIS perspective on *Alcohol and Drug Information Policy* (1991, Bethesda, MD), and claimed *Knowledge is Power* (1998, Los Angeles, CA).

The demographics of the hosting institutions also prove the diversity of SALIS membership. Among the conference organizers are academic and research libraries, government organizations, prevention centers and clearinghouses, and various other organizations. The geographical distribution from Edmonton, AB to Houston, TX shows an East Coast – West Coast dichotomy, with occasional locations in the Midwest. The following locations hosted conferences multiple times. Hosted three times: Berkeley, CA (1981, 2004, 2013), Toronto, ON (1983, 1990, 2003), Chicago, IL (1984, 1994, 2005). Hosted twice: Houston, TX (1978, 1980), New Brunswick, NJ (1985, 2014), Seattle, WA (1988, 2008), Boston, MA (1995, 2006), New York, NY (2000, 2010), Reno, NV (2007, 2012). SALIS held conferences in Canada six times (in 1983, 1987, 1990, 1996, 2003, and 2009).

In the spirit of the 2014 SALIS Conference theme, *Looking forward, looking back*, the authors invite SALIS members and interested readers to reflect on data from the past, so that we can plan better for the future.

## List of SALIS Conferences (1978-2014)

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### **36th Annual Conference**

April 29-May 2, 2014  
Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, New Jersey  
*Looking Forward, Looking Back: Reflections on the Past and Planning for the Future*

### **35th Annual Conference**

April 30-May 3, 2013  
Institute for Scientific Analysis; Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation; and Silver Gate Group.  
Berkeley, California  
*Progressive Bridges: Changing the Landscape*

### **34th Annual Conference**

May 22-25, 2012  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, Nevada  
*Stepping Out of Our Silos: Creating Partnerships, Building Capacity, Delivering Information*

### **33rd Annual Conference**

May 3-6, 2011  
Addiction Technology Transfer Centers  
Kansas City, Missouri  
*Innovation on the ATOD Frontier: Now is the Time*

### **32nd Annual Conference**

April 27-30, 2010  
Columbia University  
New York City, New York  
*ATOD Policy & Information Technology in an Era of Change*

### **31st Annual Conference**

May 5-8, 2009  
Nova Scotia Department of Health  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

*Setting Sail: Best Practices for the Next Decade*

### **30th Annual Conference**

May 6-9, 2008  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington  
*SALIS @ Thirty ~ Stepping Into the Future!*

### **29th Annual Conference**

May 1-2, 2007  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, Nevada  
*Strategic Planning Meeting, SALIS Executive Board*

### **28th Annual SALIS & 18th Annual Elisad Conference**

September 26-30, 2006  
Join Together; US Dept. of Education's Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention  
Newton, Massachusetts  
*Information without Borders*

### **27th Annual Conference**

May 3-7, 2005  
Prevention First  
Chicago, Illinois  
*Creative Connections: Linking Research to Practice with Information Technology*

### **26th Annual Conference**

April 20-24, 2004  
Alcohol Research Group  
Berkeley, California  
*Making Waves For Change*

### **25th Annual Conference**

April 22-26, 2003  
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
*Beyond Borders: 25 Years of*

*International Networking in Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Information*

### **24th Annual Conference**

April 16-20, 2002  
National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information  
Washington, D.C.  
*Capitalizing on the Value of Knowledge Sharing*

### **23rd Annual Conference**

May 4 - 7, 2001  
Akeela, Inc  
Anchorage, Alaska  
*New Frontiers in Alcohol and Drug Information*

### **22nd Annual Conference**

May 3 - 6, 2000  
Soros Foundation Library and Columbia University  
New York, New York  
*AOD in Y2K and Beyond: Back to the Future of Alcohol and Other Drugs*

### **21st Annual Conference**

April 21 - 24, 1999  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, Indiana  
*Breaking Away: Changing the Way We Work*

### **20th Anniversary Conference**

August 14 - 17, 1998  
University of California, UCLA  
Los Angeles, California  
*Knowledge is Power: Energizing Information for Application*

### **19th Annual Conference**

October 19-22, 1997  
University of Arkansas  
Little Rock, Arkansas

*Information Technology: the Threshold of Twenty-First Century Communication*

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

November 6-9, 1996  
Canadian Community Service Association, CCSA  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
*The Social and Political Aspects of Information*

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

November 12-15, 1995  
Massachusetts Prevention Center  
Boston, Massachusetts  
*Toward 2000: Diverse Resource for Healthy Communities*

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

October 15-19, 1994  
Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse  
Chicago, Illinois  
*The Information Age: Meeting the Challenge*

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

October 3-6, 1993  
Prevention Research Center  
San Francisco, California  
*Information in Action: Promoting Health*

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

November 15-18, 1992  
Tennessee Alcohol and Drug Association Statewide Clearinghouse  
Nashville, Tennessee  
*SALIS Information Gatekeepers: Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond*

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

September 29-October 2, 1991

Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, OSAP  
Bethesda, MD  
*Alcohol and Other Drug Information Policy: A SALIS Perspective*

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

October 14-17, 1990  
Addiction Research Foundation  
Toronto, ON, Canada  
*From Research to Practice: the Role of Information Specialists*

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

October 3-November 2, 1989  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN  
*Empowering Your Communities – Libraries as Prevention Advocates*

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

October 18-20, 1988  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA  
*High Risk Groups: Alcohol and Other Drug Information Resources*

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

November 2-6, 1987  
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, AADAC  
Edmonton, Canada  
*The Dissemination of Information Between Nations: A Support and Link to Activities in the Alcohol and Drug Field*

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

October 28-31, 1986  
Project Cork Resource Center – Dartmouth Medical School  
Hanover, NH  
*Information Services Approaching the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

**SALIS/LISA/DRACON**  
November 6-8, 1985  
Rutgers University Center for Continuing Education  
New Brunswick, NJ

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

October 17-10, 1984  
Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse  
Chicago, Illinois  
*Networking Is Coming Together*

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

**LISA/SALIS Joint Conference**  
October 18-21, 1983  
Addiction Research Foundation  
Toronto, ON, Canada  
*Managing Information Function*

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

April 5-7, 1982  
Silver Springs, MD  
*What Impact – Technology?*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference**

March 11-13, 1981  
Social Research Group  
Berkeley, CA  
*Networking*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference**

February 18-19, 1980  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, TX

**1<sup>st</sup> Conference**

October 23-24, 1978  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, TX