“Libraries are the portals to the information highway, and librarians are the gatekeepers of the doors of knowledge. The 2014 SALIS Conference clearly highlighted the strength and backbone that our librarians and information scientists provide to our field. Without them we scientists would be awash in a chaotic sea of data with no stars to guide our journey. Congratulations and thanks to you all.”

Dr. Robert Pandina, Director, Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies
Introduction

As part of the Center’s anniversary celebrations, the CAS Library hosted the 36th Annual Conference of the Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists (SALIS) April 29 – May 2, 2014 at the Heldrich Hotel in New Brunswick. The theme was "Looking forward looking back: Reflections on the past and planning for the future".

The only professional group of its kind in the world, SALIS is a small but influential non-profit organization in a specialized field with members all over the US, Canada, Israel, Australia, and most recently, throughout Europe. The official conference web site can be found at: http://salis.org/conference/conference.html

Program Highlights:

- Of Chickens and Eggs: How a Journal Built a Center and a Field by Robert Pandina, Ph.D. (Director, Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies)
- The Summer School of Alcohol Studies: The Rutgers Experience by Gail Milgram, Ed.D. (Director Emeritus, Rutgers Summer School of Alcohol Studies)
- Transitions in Substance Use, Transitions in Publication by Helene Raskin White, Ph.D. (Distinguished Professor, Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies)
- From Descriptions to Duplicates to Data: How Digital Tools Change Scholarly Research by Michael Lesk, Ph.D. (Distinguished Professor, Rutgers School of Communication and Information)
- Going to Pot: Recreational Marijuana in Washington and Colorado by Nancy Sutherland, MLS (Associate Director, UW Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute) and Meg Brunner, MLIS (Librarian, UW Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute)
- Open Access! (At What Cost?) panel discussion with Paul Candon, M.A. (managing editor, JSAD), Laura Mullen, M.L.S. (behavioral sciences librarian, Rutgers University Libraries), Jennifer Buckman, Ph.D., (associate professor, Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies)
- Mystery and Speculations: Piecing Together E.M. Jellinek’s Redemption by Rutgers CAS Library and Ron Roizen, Ph.D.
Reflections and memories: The conference timeline
By Judit Ward and Bill Bejarano

Rutgers did not host a SALIS conference for almost 30 years. Having the 36th Annual SALIS Conference here in 2014 seemed like a great opportunity for the Center and SALIS. The conference theme, our choice, resonated well with the momentum we created at the birthplace of alcohol science in the past few years. It was a good decision to share our significant anniversaries and milestones with the ones who are most interested: that is, substance abuse librarians from all over the world.

Preparations started more than a year ago, after Judit Ward officially proposed to host the conference during the 35th Annual Conference at Berkeley, CA in May 2013. The idea was unanimously supported by the SALIS Board and the members. In preparation for the SALIS 2014 Conference, Judit gave an update on the status of the library in Berkeley. In her presentation she reviewed the changes since she took over in 2007 and also showed a few teaser slides about the Jellinek research.

In the course of the past year, Judit Ward and Bill Bejarano promoted the Center by publishing two articles in the SALIS newsletter introducing historical facts about the Center of Alcohol Studies. Parts 1 and 2 of Celebrating 75 Years of Alcohol Studies presented updates on the anniversary and conference preparations illustrated with many pictures on the new developments, such as the conference room exhibit, the Jellinek Corner, and many more. This created a familiarity for conference attendees during their site visit at CAS.

The third and final part of the series Celebrating 75 Years of Alcohol Studies, to be published in the special conference issue of the SALIS newsletter, will share our experience as conference organizers.

As we did in that article, here too we will try to follow the chronology of the conference for the sake of those who could not attend the entire conference. It might also help attendees put some missing pieces of the puzzle in their places.

SALIS Conference posted at the Heldrich

(Photos in the issue courtesy of Stephanie Peeters, James Nguyen, Beatrix Kovacs, and Maria Palotai)
Why should we host a conference?

In addition to all the daily work, is it really worth adding to our workload by volunteering to host an international conference? Looking back to the past year, we claim that all in all, it was an exceptionally rewarding experience for us. Obviously, organizing a conference is not a piece of cake – but we got even to the cake eventually! It was extremely gratifying to see CAS people and librarians unite and celebrate together. The feedback speaks for itself (well, singing our own praises, who else will do it? :-)

"Excellent speakers"  "Excellent presentations, great focus"  "I liked the variety of topics"
"Topics were engaging and relevant"  "The conference was a tremendous success"
"The audience was very friendly"  "All presentations were well suited to theme"
"I have never been to a conference like this where they managed to stay on schedule"
"I have been to many library conferences, but this has been the most beneficial to me. I appreciated the tight schedule, and how we really kept to the schedule"
"You set a standard that will be the target for all future conferences"

We are confident that the historical atmosphere helped everyone pause for a while, reflect on the past, and think about the future from a fresh perspective. Looking back, the time spent at the conference (excluding lunch and breaks) totaled 24 hours and 15 minutes, with a total presentation time (including posters) of 15 hours, total meeting time (business, SIG, committees) of 3 hours and 45 minutes, and a total time for extra programming (site visit, celebration, walk) of 5 hours and 30 minutes.

During the entire conference, 49 people attended (including presenters, exhibitors, sponsors, hosts), out of which 33 also gave a talk. 24 presenters presented 17 talks, and 9 presenters showed 7 posters.

Presenters equally represented SALIS and CAS (42% each), while 16% of the speakers were from other institutions (computed by total presentation time, formerly CAS-related presenters counted as CAS).
The conference: Program and attendees

The agenda included formal presentations, posters, and panel discussions. The diverse topics of the presentations ranged from historical to current, theoretical to practical, academic to industry, clinical, biographical, legal, and organizational, or a combination of the above. Contemporary topics took up 70% of presentation time, which allowed 30% for historical topics. Speakers represented SALIS, government organizations, the Rutgers School of Communication and Information, and Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies. We were very pleased to welcome former Elisad members to SALIS. We hope we provided special opportunities to utilize the unique expertise of SALIS members, which will be beneficial for European organizations.

First-time SALIS attendees or outside presenters might have felt awkward for about two minutes or less, since SALIS conference veterans were just as welcoming as always, and embraced new people immediately.

The conference started with registration and a lovely reception at the Heldrich. The goodie bag contained a few gift items related to alcohol history also known from the previous articles, including the famous alco-calculator, and featured CAS publications. Attendees were also asked to fill out an ice-breaker bingo sheet to make introductions easier. Some questions were really easy, and others proved to be unanswerable, partly because many attendees did not make it to the welcome party due to adverse weather conditions.

The registration table was mostly self-service, and we appreciated the postcards left on the table by attendees who registered.
Day 1: Wednesday, April 30, 2014

On Wednesday, the conference started at 8:30 a.m. sharp after an abundant breakfast (or so we were told, since we didn’t have time for mundane things like eating). Host Judit Ward said a few words to welcome everyone and passed it over to the first of the speakers from the Center of Alcohol Studies (CAS), Dr. Robert Pandina.

The familiar but professional tone of the conference was set by CAS Director Robert Pandina’s recollection of the birth of alcohol science at Yale. As presenter in New York City in 2010, he was no stranger to SALIS, and as usual, he captured his audience of international librarians in no time.

CAS Director, Dr. Robert Pandina, on the history of the Center and the field

His talk was followed immediately by former and long-time Summer School director, Gail Milgram, who focused on the early years of alcohol education. The famous photo in the background of the 1943 class of the Summer Session of the School of Alcohol Studies, with E.M. Jellinek in the middle, was featured in the SALIS Newsletter earlier.

The combined Q&A could have gone for hours after these two comprehensive presentations. But as ruthless hosts, we decided to be strict and consistent with time to remain on schedule, and we managed to do so, for three days. We admit that to tell one’s boss that he is out of time is definitely one of the most difficult sentences to say. Our countdown cards shown in a relentlessly timely manner helped.

Former Summer School Director, Dr. Gail Milgram
The first business meeting of the conference took up the rest of the morning, and after a surprisingly delicious lunch in a room reserved for us at the hotel’s restaurant, everyone tuned back to the past by SALIS Executive Director, Andrea Mitchell’s presentation on the history of the organization. We must say we are glad that we consistently called SALIS a “small but influential organization” in all our 2014 conference communications! If anyone had doubts, Andrea delivered the evidence in her informative talk.

The first poster session came with the excitement of the new format and started with the ignite session. Having received eight poster proposals, we decided to allow presenters 3-5 minutes each, in which they could address the entire audience before answering questions by their poster. The strategy worked out wonderfully. The presenters managed to cover their major points in a few minutes, and addressed specific questions with curious individuals later. This session featured Christine Goodair’s poster on training medical students in substance misuse, in addition to two posters related to Rutgers CAS digitization projects by Deborah Fanslow and Tony Chu. CAS posters were featured earlier in the Spring issue of the CAS Library Newsletter.

Posters by Deborah Fanslow, Daniel Geary, and Tony Chu on the CAS digitization project at SALIS

After the successful ignite/poster session, attendees took a shuttle in the pouring rain to the Center of Alcohol Studies on Rutgers Busch Campus. No one realized that while we were busy inside, New Jersey had about 12 inches of rain, making traffic impossible and the hosts really nervous. One can’t be a hundred percent sure that the invited presenters will show up in the first place, but when we had a no-name hurricane and torrential rain to flood and destroy our neighborhood as we found out, we are allowed to get the jitters!
Visiting Rutgers

Attendees had the opportunity to feel a part of history in many ways. The field trip to the Center, hailed by everyone, was perhaps the most important one. The tour of Rutgers CAS allowed browsing of the objects on display in the conference room. Current director of the CAS Education and Training Division, Laura Fenster Rothschild, gave an overview of the ongoing activities at CAS. We were happy to find that many attendees recognized our relics from the pictures publicized earlier in the SALIS newsletters. At that point we were also thrilled to hear that the first four magnets, based on the objects featured from our collections, came just hot off the production line the same day and could be raffled later as door prizes.

Dr. Laura Fenster Rothschild gave an overview of the Center’s current activities in the Conference Room

Everyone then had a chance to cross the famous bridge featured on the cover of our program brochure. We were impressed that librarians all took the stairs as we always do! Entering the library, guests walked by the world’s first alcometer, created by Leon Greenberg. The somewhat old-fashioned CAS library impressed many of the participants with its retrofitted signs and pretty card catalog. Historical punchcards from the CAAAL Collection were news to the younger attendees, but prompted a walk down memory lane for seasoned librarians. Andrea Mitchell was kind enough to explain the searching method using the edge-notched cards. Viewing the tiny Jellinek Corner in the library on Wednesday was obviously meant to generate interest toward the Jellinek presentation to be held at the end of the conference on Friday.
It was the first time for most of the librarians to see and touch a “Bunky” live, i.e., the bust of E. M. Jellinek presented as the Jellinek Memorial Award. We were curious if anyone would figure out the significance of the Hungarian cards at that point, but no one did, not even our Hungarian guests!

We must admit we put in a lot of effort to create suspense throughout the week before breaking the news about Jellinek’s life, which started with a mysterious collage of Hungarian newspaper articles in the previous SALIS newsletter...

The Jellinek Corner from a new angle

The JSAD 75th Anniversary Celebration

At 4 pm the tour ended and we walked back to the Life Sciences building to “be a part of history” as many attendees put it. SALIS celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of QJSA together with CAS that afternoon at a relaxed reception hosted by the Center. An overhead slideshow, created in the library from our resources, was looping on five monitors while people mingled, networked, and enjoyed the wine and cheese. CAS Director Dr. Robert Pandina gave a brief talk on the occasion announcing that the journal founded a brand new award to honor the most popular articles published over time.

Dr. Pandina’s talk
The award was named after the founding editor of QJSA, Howard W. Haggard. Paul Candon, managing editor of JSAD, briefly reviewed Haggard’s contributions to the field and announced the first winners: the top cited article was “Matching Alcoholism Treatments to Client Heterogeneity: Project MATCH posttreatment drinking outcomes,” by the Project MATCH Research Group, published in January 1997. The most downloaded article was “Alcohol consumption, sleep, and academic performance among college students,” by Royce A. Singleton, Jr., and Amy Wolfson, published in May 2009.

The Howard W. Haggard Awards

Of course, we should not forget about the icing on the cake, which was a … cake! It featured the 75th anniversary issue as topping, and by 5:45 p.m. not a morsel was left.

The Anniversary cake

On the left: Welcome poster at the Anniversary Celebration by Debbie Fanslow of CAS Library.

All visual materials of the SALIS Conference were designed by Debbie Fanslow and James Nguyen.
Pictured here is the informative poster on Dr. Howard W. Haggard, founding editor of QJSA, created in the library from the materials we had collected and digitized in the past three years.

Much of the credit should go to former CAS graduate assistant, Christine Bariahtaris, who chose Howard Haggard as the topic of her class project for a course on Digital Libraries she took with Dr. Michael Lesk. She researched Haggard’s life, and collected and digitized all available materials on Haggard from the CAS Library.

Resources on Haggard and other founders and prominent figures of the Center (such as E. M. Jellinek, Yandell Henderson, Mark Keller, Tony Carpenter, etc.) have been temporarily hosted on the Library’s ScarletApps archive site, soon to be migrated to the new website.
Day 2: Thursday, May 1, 2014

Thursday started with more rain, but we had no time to agonize in advance about the evening health walk. The strategy of worrying only when it is absolutely necessary worked well for us, but when we were supposed to, we preferred to just deal with the issue at hand. Thursday was one of those days. After SIG & committee meetings and announcements, British librarian Bryony Addis-Jones introduced her brand new database, the International Alcohol Information Database – Research, familiar to those SALIS members who tested it upon her request and now available for the public. It was followed by Sheila Lacroix on their digital collection for gray literature at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Canada. Barbara Weiner introduced the new Hazelden-Betty Ford Foundation before the coffee break. Coffee and snacks were available right outside the conference room, and although we didn’t have a chance to gain enough empirical evidence ourselves, conference attendees were fairly pleased with the snack choices (including the pickiest CAS person, but no names please!)

The first distinguished professor of the day, Michael Lesk from the Rutgers School of Information and Communication, was next. Judit joked with Andrea Mitchell, “last year you had Brewster Kahle, now we have Michael Lesk!” It is amazing that SALIS provides these opportunities for its members to meet the legends of digital libraries. To illustrate his talk on changes in research via digital tools, Dr. Lesk brought examples from a plethora of disciplines, in his usual modest way. He actually attended the afternoon sessions and came over to CAS the previous afternoon to meet SALIS people and find out about us!

After another nice lunch, when we finally started to see the sun outside, Andrea Mitchell introduced the SALIS – Internet Archive digitization project. She also spoke for Jane Shelling, SALIS chair, who as you know, lost her job and was unable to attend this year. Fortunately, she has since regained employment. Andrea called for more fundraising in order to create a better circulating addiction e-book collection in the Internet Archive.

Our next distinguished professor from CAS was Helene Raskin White. Her name was familiar to many SALIS librarians; she is one of the few ISI Highly Cited Rutgers faculty members and co-author of the Rutgers Alcohol Problem Index. Her talk reviewed how she sees trends and transitions in publication as reflected in her work. She had prepared a series of color coded slides, but technology failed us in regard to the overhead projector. However, nothing can stop a dedicated and highly driven author in her scholarly endeavors! She breezed through her talk with dark slides, with Bill showing her slides on an iPad, and with a technician changing projectors and cables – the only thing we could say, other than apologize for the hundredth time, was that if we hadn’t known what makes a great scholar, now everyone has gotten a taste of it. No wonder we have to use another picture of her for this newsletter, no one dared to disturb her with flashing cameras!

Dr. Helene White
After the well-deserved break, the publication panel gave us an eye-opening and comprehensive overview of the pros and cons of open access. The event was given a lot of thoughts in the planning phase, as we are aware of the clashing views on the topic! However, the panel turned out to be one of the most successful dialogs during the conference.

Paul Candon, managing editor of JSAD, enlightened librarians on what it costs to run a scholarly journal. His examples of good editing practices, or the lack of, were hilarious! Jennifer Buckman, associate professor at CAS, presented the researcher’s perspective including their preferences, the financial and time constraints, and listed some really funny examples of when she was invited to publish or serve on the editorial board of emerging, low-quality journals. The librarian’s view was represented by Laura Mullen, behavioral sciences librarian at Rutgers University Libraries and author of a book on open access, who introduced the implementation of the university-wide open access policy at Rutgers and its consequences.

A very lively discussion followed and continued later outside the conference room, but views pro and con were apparently well tolerated on each side. If only all debates were similar! Everyone, including the panelists, walked away feeling that they learned something new that afternoon. Good enough for us hosts, we thought.
The weather seemed to cooperate too! And just as well, as 16 people signed up for what we called a “Health Walk” in anticipation of getting a particular sponsor (that we didn’t). We strolled down George St. and College Avenue, down to Alexander Library, at which point several attendees decided to stop in and look around.

Day 3: Friday, May 2, 2014

Friday morning started on time with some more SIG & committee meetings, followed by announcements. The entire morning was dedicated to current topics presented by SALIS members and a researcher, leaving two hours in the afternoon for a final trip to the past with E. M. Jellinek. Another British librarian, Christine Goodair of St. George University from London, presented on their digitization efforts of over 190,000 records of the Addicts Index files, followed by Barbara Seitz de Martinez from Indiana, who gave us plenty of ideas how to survive in difficult times by tailoring library services. After the coffee break, a talk by Meg Brunner and Nancy Sutherland of the University of Washington Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute highlighted the potentials of legalizing medical marijuana in more states, based on their experience in Washington. Finally, Kristin Tansil of CDC presented on their implementation of an electronic screening and brief intervention tool. We were pleased to hear how close researchers at CDC work with their librarian!
Friday afternoon was another exciting time, at least for us. Not only because of expecting the unexpected with technology for a call in from Idaho by Ron Roizen, independent scholar, but also because we made a conscious decision to break the Jellinek story at Rutgers, at the SALIS conference!

The Jellinek Panel before the session (from left to right): Molly Stewart, Karen Thomas, Scott Goldstein, Christine Bariahtaris, Dr. Judit Ward, and Bill Bejarano. Not pictured: remote speaker Dr. Ron Roizen.

We have been collecting information on his past for six years now, which explains the long list of acknowledgments and the seven presenters on the last slide. Bill Bejarano and Judit Ward were joined by four former CAS graduate assistants, now librarians working and living in different states (Christine Bariahtaris, Scott Goldstein, Karen Thomas, and Molly Stewart), who enjoyed working on the topic, and volunteered their time to put together 15-minute segments of the Jellinek panel. They all sacrificed a vacation day, since this was not work related for them as for us! The nearly two-hour long panel introduced the new data about Jellinek’s early life collected at the CAS archives and from Hungarian sources. With still a lot of white space on the canvas of Jellinek’s life, the presenters also allowed some speculations and reached out to SALIS members for further resources. The evaluation and analysis of the Jellinek research was summarized by none other than the ultimate Jellinek-expert, Ron Roizen, on the phone. While technology cooperated, the audience was listening to him in awe. It was a very special experience for us at CAS, and we are glad that SALIS members were part of it.

There was another ignite/poster session right after the panel, which started with a talk related to Jellinek by Mária Palotai and Beatrix Kovács from the National Health Sciences Library of Hungary, namely, Jellinek’s Hungarian reception and the new research interest toward him over there too. Five major articles on Jellinek were highlighted, among them one from the 1990s denying his Hungarian origin.

Beatrix Kovács and Dr. Mária Palotai with their Jellinek poster
Two CAS-related posters by graduate students of the Rutgers School of Communication and Information followed. First, Christine Rambo and Jessica Maratea presented their class project for their Digital Library Technology course taught by Judit Ward—a prototype of a digital collection on alcohol, based on materials from the CAS library. Daniel Geary next talked about digitizing confidential material, such as the CAS Summer School registration cards, which included the use of zonal OCR. Finally, Mary Kelly showed us her lovely infographics on the changing role of state documents, which inspired us to put the SALIS conference data into one too!

Unfortunately, by this time, many people left, even though we advertised the conference as a three-full-day event. Or fortunately for others perhaps? Most full time attendees won a door prize Friday afternoon! The last event of the conference was the second general meeting, where the new board was announced. As CAS-related news, Judit Ward was elected SALIS Chair and Bill Bejarano became member of the Executive Board as Member at Large.

The conference: Reflections

Based on feedback, we can say that the conference was an enormous success, and we owe much appreciation and gratitude to everyone involved at all levels of planning and execution, including all of you at CAS. Punctuality was one element that was unanimously praised by all conference attendees, and we thank you all for making that possible.

Do you want to host a conference? If you want a great experience and can live without sweating the small stuff like we did, please consider it. By now you all know that challenges motivate and do not disappoint us here in the library. We claim that making plans and goals well ahead was crucial in the long run. Another trick was to break the huge task into manageable chunks, and focus on the task at hand (or the mile you are running, if we may).

We applied the standard practice at the CAS library to conference organization too, i.e., matching interests and skill set with the tasks. The outcome is usually better and the work is more effective. Debbie, with her graphic designer background, created our wonderful program brochure and many more visual aids, while Tony, the statistician, crunched numbers better than anyone else, and Danny, the reference assistant, collected all the information attendees needed ahead, and also kept the library open during the conference. Bill can handle pretty much anything, and he is fast and efficient, he has that drive. Obviously, the Hungarian speaker comes in handy if you have Hungarian guests, should we go on?
The secret of a good conference: teamwork at CAS (from left to right): James Nguyen, Judit Ward, Bill Bejarano, Stephanie Peeters

Yes, it is a lot of work. Judit and Bill received over 1500 emails, and probably replied to them too, while organizing the program. However, the conference gave us an experience where we can relate to people on a more personal level and the Center made another big step forward to create a bigger footprint.

Former and current CAS Library staff worked together on the Jellinek Panel
The big adventure: SALIS conference in the United States

In 1999, our library, the National Health Science Library of Hungary, joined Elisad, and we participated in European events such as the PHARE Drug Information System and several Elisad conferences. We are very proud that the 21st Elisad annual meeting was organized by our Library in 2009 in Budapest, Hungary. At Elisad meetings we met with Andrea Mitchell, Executive Director of SALIS, and other colleagues, as well as Christine Goodair and Judit Ward. We have kept in touch with Judit in person and via e-mail. We were glad that we could help her in collecting the Hungarian materials for the Jellinek archive, including several articles and five books in Hungarian related to Jellinek.

We were very happy that our poster, “The impact of E. M. Jellinek's personality and work in the Hungarian literature” was accepted at the SALIS Conference. Invited by Rutgers colleagues, we have contributed to the newly discovered information about Jellinek’s Hungarian connections with our poster as part of the Jellinek panel.

This was our first trip to the United States, and also the first time Hungarian librarians provided first-hand experience to American substance librarians. We found the conference venue of very high quality. The well-planned program remained on schedule throughout the whole time, which attests to the professionalism of the organizers. It is very unusual in Hungary not to have delays at a conference. The event featured a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. We had a great time at the tour of the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies and its library with the Jellinek corner, and we appreciated the opportunity to participate in the JSAD celebration. We really liked the telephone conversation with Ron Roizen while his presentation was projected. The ice-breaking "bingo" game was a great idea from the first attendees’ perspective, because it helped us get to know each other better from day one.

After returning home, the conference presentations and other documents we collected were archived in the special collection of documents on addictions at the National Health Science Library of Hungary. During the conference and the CAS Library site visit we gained a lot of knowledge on digitization, a modern technology which will be used in our library in the near future. We are confident that the experience will help us in our forthcoming digitization efforts.

We enjoyed the conference very much, as we had the opportunity to meet some American colleagues face to face and to taste the life of another continent. Thank you all for the huge and comprehensive work of the organizers and, most of all, for the opportunity to present our poster.

Mária Palotai, Beatrix Kovács
Conference convert: How SALIS changed my views on library research

Having worked at the Center of Alcohol Studies Library at Rutgers as a graduate student, naturally I was very curious to meet others who work in the field of substance abuse. It presents unique challenges to librarians and information specialists, especially those without a background in the sciences like myself. Speaking with other librarians not only allowed me to learn how to become a professional in the field, but also to about the issues and concepts prevalent in the research. The structured nature of the conference and the thoughtful presentations proved that conferences can strike a balance between informative and social.

Presenting in such an environment was a wonderful experience. A lot of time and effort has gone into slowly piecing together E. M. Jellinek’s life. My focus was on a single decade but proved to be full of insight on his character and research habits. Amongst the most useful resources found were the Worcester State Hospital Annual Reports. Being able to make connections between the research being done each year and the changing focus of the institution was important. Of course, having the reflections of people who were actually present was another important resource. Articles by David Shakow and published interviews with numerous people recollecting their time at Worcester provided an understanding of the social atmosphere.

Beginning by creating a timeline of the decade during which Jellinek was at Worcester State Hospital, I was able to amass articles written by Jellinek and his colleagues while placing letters written by his ex-wife Thelma in context. By the end, I had a wall covered with abstracts, letters, and limericks which painted a colorful picture of an equally colorful man.

Jellinek’s limericks are certainly a great treasure. I’d seen some of his later limericks and verse while doing general alcohol-related research as a graduate assistant. These short verses give so much insight into his character. I can only imagine how wonderful it would have been to work with him. What I think is really unique about this research is that it provides a balanced overview of the man. Too often the amazing work Jellinek did for schizophrenia, alcoholism, and numerous other diseases is disregarded. A more rounded portrait will, hopefully, increase interest in the early history of alcohol studies and spur further research.

Karen Thomas
Keeping up with the Jellineks

When I began my research on E.M. Jellinek’s family during my time as a graduate assistant at the CAS library, I was not expecting to uncover any remarkable information. My role, as I saw it, was to verify the information at hand, and confirm or refute apocryphal stories or speculative theories as to how Jellinek became a founder of modern alcohol studies. Over the course of my research, I was introduced to a family that has consistently amazed, impressed, and baffled me. I was delighted to have the opportunity to share my findings on the Jellinek family at this year’s SALIS conference and revisit their stories. Synthesizing the information into a conference presentation proved to be a difficult and rewarding challenge.

When I first opened up the files I had kept with the information I had collected on E.M. Jellinek and his family, I was excited at the change to delve into their trials and accomplishments once more. However, I had never realized the sheer quantity of data I had collected. While doing research with documents on Ancestry.com and US census data, I had kept a written document that traced the Jellinek and Jacobson families chronologically. It included information on E.M. Jellinek, as well as his parents, sister, cousins, wives and children. However, the information was not found in chronological order, and I found upon rereading the document that I could only recall the highlights – there was about four times as much information as I expected. In the end, I decided that “the highlights” was also the best approach for the conference presentation – the select information I could recall instantly was mostly likely also the information that would grab the audience. My goal for the presentation was to present a narrative that would be appealing and educational. My ability to edit was, admittedly, hampered by my enthusiasm for my subject. Even after submitting my final draft, I needed to cut it down by half!

The 2014 SALIS conference was my first experience as a presenter. My primary concern was timing, since our panel was rather large. It was a great experience to speak in front of a room of library colleagues, and be forced to edit as necessary to make sure the time requirement was not exceeded. My previous library conference experiences have been as an attendee at both the state and national level, where I found it difficult to meet new people simply due to the overwhelming size of the events; people often remained in their own groups. However, the SALIS attendees truly felt like a group that was eager and willing to educate each other and take new members into their fold. I was thrilled when attendees told us that they enjoyed our presentation, and even had some colleagues contribute information that could aid in my future research on the Jellinek family.

I hope that I can continue to be a part of both the SALIS and CAS community through this project, which has been a highlight of my academic career.

Christine Barihahtaris
Thoughts on the Jellinek Panel

I was honored when Judit and Bill invited me to sum up the several presentations offered on the Jellinek panel. Performing that task somehow brought to the fore of my mind both how much we’d learned about Jellinek and how much we still didn’t know. The “how much we’d learned” message came through loud and quite clear from the fact that it was difficult for me to summarize and select from all the things the panel offered. I had only 15 minutes for my entire summary. I had to be very selective – even a little arbitrary – in what I actually used. Still, and despite this bounty, there was also so much that we still don’t know. Jellinek’s years in Honduras, for instance, are still nearly a blank page; his years in Africa are even blanker. Much has been gathered about his currency trading caper in Hungary, but a lot of that source material still hasn’t been translated into English. We’re not even entirely sure, yet, how many wives Jellinek had. And there exist – we suspect – real treasure troves of Jellinekian archival materials out there in the world that we have not laid our hands on. In this sense, the Jellinek panel was no more than a waystation somewhere between the beginning and the conclusion of our inquiry. But it was a useful waystation, too.

One of the things I found myself wondering after the SALIS conference closed was whether it wouldn’t make more sense to shoot for some sort of biographical product other than a monograph. A documentary film or a multi-media web page, for instance, might make more manageable mediums for what we have to offer. A web-based medium, moreover, would allow for revising and expanding the biography’s content as new sources came in. The exercise of putting together my presentation also raised, for me, the question of how much SALIS members and other interested audiences might already know about Jellinek. I was more or less “brought up on him” in my early years in alcohol studies in Berkeley. But how much do younger librarians and researchers know – or for that matter, care – about this fascinating man? The answer to this question has implications, of course, for what the panel and the summarizer (i.e., yours truly) should say about him. Judit informed me that the Jellinek panel and the conference in general came off well. I’m glad for this, as I know how much work went into its staging.

Ron Roizen
Small investment, big returns: Presenting a conference poster

It was both an honor and a pleasure to present a poster at this year’s SALIS conference. Although I had attended library conferences before, the intimacy and community that clearly existed among members of SALIS was a delight to experience. This conference stood in glaring opposition to my previous experiences at larger conferences, which often consisted of chaotic shuttling between presentations, cramped exhibit halls, and underpublicized poster sessions.

The success of the conference should not have come as a surprise, as I witnessed the many hours of planning, coordinating, and marketing that defined the months prior to the event. Those who have never hosted a conference likely have no idea how much collaboration and teamwork is required to make everything come together! For my part, I put on my project management hat to help schedule the many presentations, meetings, and events that needed to be coordinated, as well as to help manage the submission of many bits of information about conference attendees and presenters. I was also able to wear my graphic design hat to create the conference booklet (a quickly moving target!) as well as posters which were displayed in our conference center to celebrate and promote both CAS and the Journal. The experience taught me that planning a conference requires people to step up and use many skills that you don’t learn in library school. I found it very satisfying to be able to use what I had learned in my previous career as an Art Director to bring more value to my current role at the Center.

Even though my time at the conference was rather brief, I did have the opportunity to enjoy Andrea Mitchell’s presentation on the history of SALIS. I was quickly impressed after learning about the passion with which SALIS librarians embraced the SALIS mission, both in the past, and today. Prior to working with Judit and Bill as an Information Specialist at the Center of Alcohol Studies, I had no idea that organizations like SALIS existed for information professionals to share their research, experiences, and best practices in such a focused subject area. After hearing Andrea’s presentation, I felt proud of what everyone had accomplished in the field, even though I am not currently a SALIS member. It’s amazing what people can do when they come together to share their expertise and passion!
Presenting my poster, *When Opportunity Knocks: Engineering a DAM System for Digital Collections*, afforded me the opportunity to share with the SALIS community aspects of the CAS library’s digitization project. I was especially proud to be able to represent and promote the Center and the important work that we are doing in the library to preserve the unique materials that help illustrate such a significant period in history.

Although I have many hours of teaching experience under my belt, I still felt a bit of anxiety immediately before my presentation. The challenge of synthesizing the challenges, issues, and successes of our complex digitization project within five minutes to an audience of close-knit information professionals (including certain distinguished luminaries in the field of digital libraries who certainly know more than I do on the topic) was intimidating to say the least! After my initial jitters subsided, I quickly began to enjoy interacting with the audience about a subject which I love. A show of hands indicated that the content of my poster was informative for many in the audience.
The Ignite Session proved to be an effective format for generating interest in the contents of our poster presentations, since immediately afterwards I had the pleasure of engaging in conversation with many SALIS librarians here and abroad who were either already working on similar digitization projects or who were soon to embark on one. Of particular interest to many were our choice of technology platform, considerations in regard to intellectual property and copyright law, and our ability to provide appropriate user access levels to sensitive information.

In addition to gaining more presentation experience, I benefited professionally from my conference experience in more informal ways as well. I enjoyed the opportunity to network with other professionals and learn about the similar challenges and successes that we all experience, no matter our geography or institutional affiliation. In a broader sense, it was also fascinating to learn about SALIS librarians’ unique pathways into the field of library and information science, and how they were drawn to focus on the area of substance abuse.

In closing, thank you to all the SALIS librarians for sharing your interests, passions, and challenges with me on a rainy Wednesday afternoon. Although our paths crossed only briefly, you made a lasting impression!

Deborah Fanslow

The Devil's Mouthwash: America's Complicated Relationship with Alcohol

On Friday, May 2, I presented a poster at the 2014 SALIS Conference to represent my group's Digital Library Technology prototype project, The Devil's Mouthwash: America's Complicated Relationship with Alcohol. I presented with another group member to demonstrate the purpose and highlights of our digital library. Our materials included images from time periods such as the Whiskey Rebellion, Temperance Movement, and Prohibition, through to today. Our poster contained images of public service announcements, photographs, advertisements and pamphlets associated with alcohol. Our poster and digital library maintained an unbiased perspective, and showcased both Pro and Anti-alcohol materials. The project overall was very fun to put together, as our country’s relationship with alcohol is ever-changing. More information on the project is available in a YouTube video (part of the course work) at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-s1woLDYn5M&feature=youtu.be

This was the first time I had presented at a conference as a Rutgers Library and Information Science graduate student. I had presented at literary conferences and conventions in the past, but it was nice that this conference was small and personal in comparison. I felt like each person who attended and presented held an important role and was very engaged and invested in the conference itself, and I felt honored to have been invited by our professor, Judit Ward, to present on behalf of our group and class. As an online student, the ability to engage in academic activities in person was an
opportunity I am glad I took advantage of.

There were librarians from all over the country and the world at the conference, and it was very interesting to see the commonalities among this narrow focus of librarianship. It opened my eyes to a different world of libraries. As a graduate student, I gained a lot from this experience. If I ever need to present as a librarian in the future, I will have a better idea of what to expect as far as preparation and presentation. I had a lot of anxiety entering the situation, not knowing what to expect. Now having done it, I have gained confidence and eagerness to present in the future, given the chance.

The overall experience was a positive one, and I am glad that I did it.

Jessica Maratea

Reflections from presenters

The SALIS conference was great; it was well run and beautifully orchestrated. I enjoyed meeting and chatting with the participants at both the opening reception and the JSAD 75th anniversary reception. It was clear that they were happy to be at the conference and that it was meeting their needs.

Presenting to such an engaged audience was special, as everyone actively followed my talk. The discussions which followed were insightful and provided additional information and perspective on the history of the School and its success through the years.

I was honored to be invited to present to the members of SALIS, as they've played a significant role in the evolution of the alcohol/drug field.

Gail Milgram

The 2014 Conference was my first time attending a SALIS event of any kind and I was fortunate enough to be a part of a panel presentation. Although I’ve attended library conferences in the past, SALIS was a unique experience because of its size and focus. I enjoyed the intimate feeling of the smaller group, and the fact that so many audience members were not only knowledgeable of our topic but had their own stories to add. My favorite moment of the conference was after the presentation was over when a few audience members came over to congratulate our group. As a non-SALIS member attendee and a librarian newer to the field, I felt so welcomed and encouraged by this group. Being a part of the 2014 SALIS conference was a valuable and rewarding experience.

Molly Stewart
The audience at the conference room was awesome! Everyone was listening carefully to the presentations, and asked a lot of meaningful questions. No laptops, iPads, or any other distractions!
The audience listening to Dr. Pandina’s anniversary talk in the Life Sciences Building Atrium

Paul Candon’s speech

Dr. Pandina about to cut the cake
The 75th Anniversary Celebration was well attended by CAS members
The 75th Anniversary Celebration was well attended by CAS members
Candid Camera

Judit, connecting the dots in Jellinek’s Hungarian and American life

Bill, burning the midnight oil