



**Chapter President's Report
September 2009
Prepared by Trish Chatterley**

2008-2009 has been an exciting year for NAHLA. We elected three new members to the Executive at the Annual General Meeting on September 23, 2008. Key agenda items were the discussion of a new health concentration at the University of Alberta School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), a report of the completion of the NAHLA History project, and the implementation of a subcommittee to put together a proposal for a new CHLA/ABSC award. The business meeting was followed by a catered dinner and social time.

Executive

President: Trish Chatterley
Vice President: Dagmara Chojecki
Past President: Orvie Dingwall
Treasurer: Dale Storie
Secretary: Jessica Knoch

Membership

Membership in NAHLA, sadly, was lower than last year's. We stood at 32 members, including two student members.

Alternatives in Health Librarianship

Our first program of the season on November 12 was a panel presentation on alternative roles in health librarianship. Four librarians representing different organizations described their roles and the tasks unique to their non-traditional information specialist positions. We thank the following individuals for their contributions:

Dagmara Chojecki: Knowledge Utilization Studies Program with the Faculty of Nursing.
Liza Chan: Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research
Stuard Drozd: Centre for Health Evidence
Connie Winther: Complimentary and Alternative Research Education

Annual Christmas Lunch

Our annual Christmas lunch was held December 5 in the festive atmosphere of Rutherford House, the home of the first Premier of Alberta. The combination of food, friendship, and fun with the "recycled gift" exchange always makes the event an entertaining one!

Project Management Workshop

On February 4, 2009 we collaborated with another local library organization, the Greater Edmonton Library Association (GELA), to host a workshop on Project Management. Over 30 library professionals from the local community learned valuable skills from instructor Vincent Capri of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT).

Evidence-Based Librarianship

In mid-March, former health librarian Denise Koufogiannakis spoke to NAHLA members about evidence based library and information practice, sharing advice on how to use research effectively in everyday practice.

Reaching Out to SLIS Students

Throughout the year, we have continued to reach out to the local library student community. We once again sponsored the annual SLIS Professional Development Day. Two members of the NAHLA Executive, Trish Chatterley and Jessica Knoch, gave a noon-hour presentation to SLIS students about

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health librarianship and the role of NAHLA in the community. We also awarded two free student registrations to our annual TRENDS mini-conference. Our proposal to implement a student position on the NAHLA Executive will be considered later during the AGM.

TRENDS Mini-Conference

The Teaching, Research, Education, 'Knowledge, Direction, Strength (TRENDS) mini-conference, held the afternoon of May 1, was the final and most successful event of the season! For the first time, the Southern Alberta Health Libraries Association co-sponsored the event, and seven of their members came from Calgary to attend. Our associations were extremely fortunate to have been awarded a CHLA/ABSC Chapter Initiatives Fund grant. The additional funding enabled us to bring in Jeff Mason from Regina, who spoke about the health information literacy project with which he was involved through the Medical Library Association in the United States. In other presentations, Allison Sivak spoke about assessment in libraries, while Dale Storie and Thane Chambers discussed bringing RSS to faculty members. The 40 attendees (our biggest audience ever!) enjoyed a social lunch to start the afternoon, the informative sessions, and great discussion with colleagues.

CHLA/ABSC Conference

CHLA/ABSC's annual conference was held May 30-June 3, 2009 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. NAHLA was well represented yet again with the following contributed papers by members:

Soleil Surette and Connie Winther: *Supporting evidence-based health in clinical practice in complementary and alternative medicine: librarians in the CARE program*

Liz Dennett: *Building capacity in systematic review searching : a pilot program*

Sandy Campbell, Thane Chambers, and Dale Storie: *How simple is really simple syndication?*

Orvie Dingwall participated on the Knowledge Translation Panel and led one of the Friday morning Table Talks on "What evidence-based library research would help you in your practice. Linda Slater led another talk on "Ten ways to improve PubMed."

Meet the CHLA/ABSC President and Vice President Summer Event

Current NAHLA Past-President Orvie Dingwall was elected CHLA Vice President at the CHLA annual general meeting in June. At the same time, NAHLA member Marlene Dorgan moved into the role of President of the CHLA/ABSC Board. Since it is the first time both VP and President of CHLA have been from the same local chapter, we thought it would be a good idea to arrange a meeting so that they could talk about their visions for the national association while giving NAHLA members the opportunity to provide input. In all, nine people came to Earl's on Campus for the discussion. One of the main topics of conversation was the need to use advances in technology to reach out to more distantly located association members.

Advocacy

At times during NAHLA's history, members have been active politically with the writing of letters and the arranging of meetings with MLAs. This year, the NAHLA Executive drafted letters to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Minister of State for Science and Technology Gary Goodyear, and President of the National Research Council of Canada Dr. Pierre Coulombe. These letters spoke out against the drastic cuts to the NRC and the severe effects those cuts have had on CISTI. NAHLA also submitted a letter of support for the Canadian Virtual Health Library Network, a CHLA/ABSC initiative, to be included in the grant application to the Canadian Institutes of Health Information (CIHR). We wish them the best of luck with their proposal!

I am extremely grateful for having been given the opportunity to serve as NAHLA President during the 2008-2009 year. It has been a very successful and rewarding year, and I look forward to continuing with the Executive in the role of Past President. I have enjoyed working with the other members of the Executive and wish to express my heartfelt thanks to them for their contributions to the Association.

Trish Chatterley
NAHLA President, 2008-2009

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