

CHLA/ABSC Chapter President's Report

Official Chapter Name: Northern Alberta Health Libraries Association

Operating year for this report: October 2006 – September 2007

Number of Members : 35 (31 regular members and 4 student members)

Executive for the operating year being reported on:

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Other Officers: not applicable

Executive for the forthcoming year (if known at this time):

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Secretary/ Secrétaire: not known
Trésorière/Treasurer: not known
Editor/ Rédactrice: not applicable
Correspondent to/Correspondant a JCHLA: not known
Other Officers: not applicable

Chapter Website URL (if available): <http://www.nahla.ca>

OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ON WHICH YOU ARE REPORTING:

This has been a busy and interesting year for NAHLA. At the AGM on September 26, 2006, we elected a new executive and approved the first mission statement for NAHLA: *Empowering health information specialists in Northern Alberta to support health care services and research, through leadership, advocacy, networking and education.* After the business meeting, we enjoyed catching up with each other over a fantastic catered dinner.

We started the NAHLA programming year off on November 8, 2006 by hosting a group site for MLA's fall webcast entitled: **Moving at the Speed of Byte: Emerging Technologies for Information Management.** The session provided many examples of practical library applications for different Web 2.0 tools and it received top marks from those attending.

In early December we had our annual Christmas lunch and recycled-gift exchange at a local eatery, Café Select. As always, members had a good laugh over the gifts and enjoyed chatting with friends new and old.

Each year, NAHLA puts on a series of professional development sessions called "Leading Edge Workshops" at no cost to members. We kicked off on November 30, 2006 with **Training on the new EBSCO Interface of CINAHL**, a timely topic requested by the membership. Linda Slater, from the University of Alberta, gave participants an excellent in-depth introduction to this resource. On February 27, 2007, Jeanette Buckingham, also of the University of Alberta, presented a very well received session, **Evaluating Systematic Reviews.** Jeanette had us all evaluate a systematic review using three different critical appraisal tools in order to familiarize us with the process. Finally, on March 27, 2007, the session **Top Ten Consumer Health Websites** was presented by seven NAHLA members who gave demonstrations and critical analyses of CHIPIG's list of the Top 10 Canadian Consumer Health Websites. All three sessions were very well attended by members and non-members alike, demonstrating the need for timely, inexpensive professional development.

This year we provided support in the form of a \$100 donation to the School of Library and Information Sciences Professional Development Day. This annual event is organized entirely by the students and always includes an interesting mix of prominent keynote speakers, student presenters, and professional librarians. NAHLA was happy to support this excellent student initiative, and a number of our members were able to attend.

NAHLA members have also started work on a very exciting project. We are teaming up with the Southern Alberta Health Libraries Association (SAHLA) and the Health Knowledge Network (HKN) of Alberta to plan and host a symposium to be held in Calgary on April 11, 2008. The symposium topic will be **Evidence-Based Practice and Knowledge Transfer in Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM)** and we hope to attract both health practitioners and librarians to the event.

NAHLA has been invited to have a member of its executive represent NAHLA in a panel discussion for the annual NEOS Mini-Conference on June 27, 2007. The discussion is entitled, "**Where do I belong?**" and representatives from all the local library associations will discuss the activities of their organization and address who might benefit most from membership.

Finally, NAHLA's History Project Working Group has spent the past two years searching out, recording, organizing and preserving the history of NAHLA from its inception in 1985. Thanks to a big effort this year, the project is nearly complete and will be presented as a poster at this year's CHLA conference in Ottawa. We plan to present the project locally to our past and present members at an event in June. A special thanks to CHLA for providing us with a Chapter Initiatives Grant in 2004 to carry out this important work.

Respondent's name: *Liz Dennett NAHLA President*

Date: May 10, 2007