

CHLA/ABSC Past: Committee Representation, Task Forces, and Working Groups
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Past Representatives

CHLA/ABSC was formerly involved with the following committees:

NRC Knowledge Management Advisory Committee (KMAC)

Formerly: Advisory Board for NRC-CISTI, and previously: CISTI Committee on Health Sciences Information.

As an advisory group, the Committee (2004-2013) provided specialized advice to CISTI on CISTI's plans, priorities, programs and services to the health and medical research communities. The committee acted as a user group by reviewing CISTI activities vis-à-vis the various health communities and organizations in Canada. Reports were submitted to the CHLA/ABSC Board up to May 2013.

Canadian Virtual Health Library

The [Canadian Virtual Health Library](#)/Bibliothèque virtuelle canadienne de la santé (CVHL/BVCS) emerged in 2011 out of a conceptual framework developed and validated over 10 years, into a coordinated and sustainable national network that would ensure that all health professionals in Canada have ready access to health information of high quality. A Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grant provided funding over a three-year period to:

1. Launch and develop CVHL - including hiring staff, forming a board, creating processes for input and consultation with stakeholders and libraries, and establishing a portal.
2. Develop a funding model, organizational structure and strategy for ensuring the sustainability of CVHL.

CVHL was incorporated as a not-for-profit charitable organization. On its Web portal, CVHL integrated a database of free health information resources. Database content was curated by a team of volunteers.

CVHL applied for a grant renewal but was unsuccessful and had to cease its operations in April 2014. A key component of the business plan was negotiations of licences on behalf of network subscribers. Only two network subscribers entered subscriptions via CVHL/BVCS, and they were small subscriptions. Timing was not optimal either, with the 2008 financial downturn. As well, the political situation was not favourable.

The CVHL database was hosted by CHLA/ABSC from April 2014 to February 2015, when it suffered from a cyberattack and had to be deleted.

Reports to CHLA/ABSC as well as various proposition documents were added to CHLA/ABSC Archives in 2016.

Task Forces, Working Groups, and Committees

Pan Canadian Cochrane Task Force (2009-2010)

This Task Force was a partnership of CHLA/ABSC and the Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre (CNCC). The mandate of the Task Force was to develop the business case and model for pan-Canadian access to The Cochrane Library; to secure sustained funding for a national license for The Cochrane Library; and to position The Cochrane Library as a key component of the proposed Canadian Virtual Health Library (CVHL).

National Network of Libraries for Health/Réseau national des bibliothèques pour la santé (2000-2008)

The following information was retrieved from the [Internet Archive](#).

The mandate of the Task Force was to advance the Canadian Health Libraries Association (CHLA) / Association des bibliothèques de la santé (ABSC) vision for a National Network of Libraries for Health (NNLH).

The Task Force built upon the groundwork laid by the NNLH Steering Group (2000-2002). The Steering Group brought together representatives from Health Canada, CHLA, Association of Canadian Medical Colleges (ACMC), L'Association ASTED and CISTI under a Health Canada coordinator to begin to build a business case and develop the concept of NNLH.

It was recognized that developing and implementing NNLH will require commitment and sustained effort extending well beyond the Task Force mandate. (see CVHL Representative section).

The Task Force:

- Developed and implemented a campaign to promote the proposed NNLH
- Identified and enlisted champions for the NNLH
- Positioned the NNLH proposal, or components thereof, with the appropriate government agency
- If successful in positioning NNLH, or components thereof, the task force was to help create a model for service delivery, organization and fit with existing library services

- If unsuccessful in positioning NNLH, or components thereof, the task force was to:
 - critically assess whether the impediments overwhelm the opportunities for implementing the proposal
 - advise the association board on future options or strategies
- Sought to identify funding mechanisms to develop and sustain a NNLH.

Task Force on Hospital Library Standards (2005-2006)

This Task Force was created to review and revise the CHLA/ABSC Standards for library & information services in Canadian healthcare facilities. The final document is available under [Publications](#) on the CHLA/ABSC website. *(The 2014-2018 Strategic Plan includes the objective “Provide members with a toolkit of impact measures, stories, case studies and standards” so a new Task Force may be created to update the 2006 standards.)*

The Task Force:

- Surveyed current health library Standards in Canada and abroad
- Reviewed and revised the existing CHLA/ABSC Standards for library and information services in consideration of available standards and best practice
- Recommended Standards for library and information services in Canadian healthcare facilities
- Regularly distributed progress reports to CHLA and to the Chapters to ensure ongoing feedback and consultation.

Professional Librarian Recruitment Letter Writing Campaign (2003-2004)

The Professional Health Librarians of New Brunswick / Bibliothécaires professionnels de la santé du Nouveau-Brunswick (PHLNB/BPSNB) embarked on a letter-writing campaign in early 2003, in an effort to bring about the hiring of a full-time professional librarian in a New Brunswick health region where the library assistant who managed the one-person library, was planning to retire. It was felt by the health librarians in the province, that hospital management should move forward and hire a professional librarian to fill the position; however, there was concern by all, including the retiring library assistant, that this would not be the case. The retiring library assistant who had fostered the library forward, very generously lent her support to PHLNB/BPSNB, since it was her desire also, that the library be managed by a professional librarian.

In planning the letter-writing campaign, PHLNB/BPSNB drew upon the advice of Mary Jane Hampton who presented at CHLA/ABSC Conference '99 in Halifax. Mary Jane had stated in her presentation entitled, 10 Steps to the Lobby, that action such as a letter-writing campaign required a critical threshold of seven letters in order to capture the attention of its target. Consequently, PHLNB/BPSNB engaged seven professional interests/associations to write letters in support of the desired outcome. The resulting templates of the letters and cover-letters, along with excerpts of supporting professional standards, have been made accessible to CHLA/ABSC membership, to assist with similar efforts.

By early January, 2004, it was confirmed that a professional librarian had, in fact, been hired to fill the position, and that the letter-writing campaign had been a success.

Volunteers in Libraries (2003-2004)

This Task Force was created to co-ordinate activities in response to the emerging issues related to volunteers working in health libraries. The Task Force recommended a CHLA/ABSC policy

statement about volunteers as well as guidelines for volunteers working in health sciences libraries (see the Policy Statements section).

Resource Sharing II (1997-1999)

The initial term of the CHLA/ABSC Task Force on Resource Sharing was for two years concluding at the Fall 1996 Board Meeting. During this period, significant strides towards completing the mandate were made. However, several issues remain outstanding and others had risen:

- ongoing implementation of DOCLINE
- tension between CISTI's business plan to recover costs through document delivery and statutory mandate as the national library for science, technology and Medicine
- National Library of Canada (NLC) initiatives in resource sharing requiring input from CHLA/ABSC.

Therefore, the initial mandate was revised and extended.

- Facilitate the ongoing implementation of DOCLINE in Canada (via CISTI DOCLINE Coordinator).
- Advise, consult and liaise with CISTI, NLC, and NLM (via CISTI) in the development of resource sharing tools and systems (e.g. vCuc/vvCcc, AMICUS, AVISO, Z39.50, etc.)
- Work to ensure that in the development of resource sharing tools there is equitable access to and distribution of health information in Canada.
- Be a conduit of resource sharing concerns from the membership to external organizations (e.g. NLC, CISTI, NLM (via CISTI)).
- Ensure and promote education and availability of information on resource sharing issues within and beyond our Association.
- Identify issues, advise and recommend actions to the Board on a regular basis.

Benchmarking (1997-1998)

The purpose of this Task Force was to develop and pilot test a practical benchmarking instrument for Canadian health libraries and a proposal for implementation.

Responsibilities:

- To consider the relationship to other data collection efforts such as the National Core Library Statistics and the Annual Statistics of Medical School Libraries in the United States and Canada.
- To determine what benchmarking data would be useful to health libraries and their organizations.
- To develop an instrument that will be suitable for hospital, academic and other libraries in relevant health care organizations.
- To recommend a process for the ongoing administration, evaluation and revision of the benchmarking instrument and dissemination of the data.

Resource Sharing (1994-1997)

This Task Force was created at the Fall 1994 CHLA/ABSC Board Meeting to co-ordinate activities in response to the emerging issues related to resource sharing for health libraries. The need for the Task Force was accentuated by the introduction of DOCLINE into Canada along with economic and organizational restructuring in the health care sector. The Task Force was intended to continue work begun with "Libraries without walls : blueprint for the future" (the

Flower report) and with the work of the former Joint SRCMSL /CHLA /ABSC Task Force on Interlibrary Loans.

The Task Force focused on issues directly relevant to the needs of the health sciences library community. The emphasis was on practical solutions directed at the local level. The work of the Task Force was an appropriate step to more effective sharing of distributed resources and improved library networking. It was recognized that there were many further issues which require cooperation and collaboration with other organizations.

The introduction of the DOCLINE system into Canada was seen as a catalyst for clarifying and facilitating the resolution of many resource sharing issues identified in the Flower report and the report of the Joint SRCMSL / CHLA / ABSC Committee on Interlibrary Loans. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the DOCLINE system as a long-term solution to the identified problems was necessary.

Oral History Committee (1982-1983)

Audio cassettes are available in the Association's Archives at Osler Library. The committee :

- managed the oral history programme of the Canadian Health Libraries Association/Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada (CHLA/ABSC) which is devoted to the history of health sciences librarianship in Canada, and especially the history of the Association.
- determined criteria for selection of those to be interviewed.
- drew up documentation to cover the legal and copyright issues involved in creating and preserving records of the interviews conducted.
- selected candidates for interview on a regular basis, working through CHLA/ABSC chapters and other interested parties where possible.
- recruited and selected interviewers and editors to assist with the work of the committee, working through CHLA/ABSC chapters and other interested parties where possible.
- developed an interview kit of support materials related to interviewing techniques to assist interviewers and ensure a level of continuity in the project.
- facilitated the conducting of interviews with candidates selected and the transcribing, publication and dissemination of transcripts.
- arranged for preservation of tapes and other records of interviews.
- advised the CHLA/ABSC archivist with respect to any special conditions of availability pertaining to any materials related to interviews and transcripts.
- prepared and submitted to the Board annual and budget reports at appropriate Board meetings.