

## **Northern Alberta Health Libraries Association (NAHLA) News**

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NAHLA has been busy since our last *Partnership* update in the 2.1 issue. In late November, the Association hosted an information session with a historical theme. The membership heard an update on the NAHLA history project, an effort undertaken by several group members to capture and document the history of NAHLA since its inception in 1985. Both the processes involved and the highlights from the group's 28 year history were described. This was paired with a tour of the Phyllis Russell Rare Books Room, which is housed in the John W. Scott Health Sciences Library at the University of Alberta. Special and unique items from the Rawlinson collection, as it is known, were showcased.

NAHLA is a group focused on the professional development of its members, therefore to foster learning it implemented its 'Leading Edge' series of workshops in 2005. As part of that series, an interactive session was hosted in January that demonstrated features of the new OVID SP database interface and allowed attendees to try out the new system.

Also as part of that series, in early March we were extremely fortunate to welcome guest presenter Margaret Sampson, a researcher well known in health sciences librarianship for her work with Jessie McGowan on the importance of peer review of search strategies for systematic reviews. She presented some of the findings from this research and her thoughts on how to generate better search strategies.

The "Evidence in Complementary Medicine: Getting it Right" symposium was a joint organizational partnership among NAHLA, the Health Knowledge Network, and the Southern Alberta Health Libraries Association. Held in April of this year in Calgary, the day of presentations informed health care professionals and medical librarians about the application of evidence-based clinical practice in complementary and alternative medicine.

NAHLA's annual TRENDS (Teaching, Research, Education, 'Nowledge, Direction, Strength) half-day mini-conference took place in early May. The session was targeted to all librarians, not just those involved with health-related fields. The afternoon consisted of a panel presentation on Evidence-Based librarianship and presentations on mobile technologies and customer service.