Northern Alberta Health Libraries Association (NAHLA)
News

Dagmara Chojecki
NAHLA Vice-President

2008 / 2009 NAHLA Executive

An exciting year of events began for NAHLA on September 23 with the Annual General Meeting. A new executive was elected by NAHLA members and consists of:

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

Events

In October, a NAHLA subcommittee was created to develop a proposal for an additional Canadian Health Libraries Association (CHLA/ABSC) award. Since a hospital librarian award was already in place, this new award would honour experienced librarians doing exceptional work in health information environments other than hospital libraries. The CHLA/ABSC Award for Innovation was approved by the CHLA executive at their November board meeting.

The year’s first Leading Edge Workshop (NAHLA’s signature professional development series) was held in mid-November with 14 attendees. Librarians and information professionals from outside traditional library settings spoke about the type of work they do and the challenges and rewards of their roles. Speakers included Stuart Drozd, Connie Winther, Liza Chan, and Dagmara Chojecki.

The annual NAHLA Christmas Luncheon was held at festive Rutherford house in December, and a second Leading Edge Workshop was held in January, in partnership with the Greater Edmonton Library Association (GELA). At this session, Vincent Capri of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), spoke to a group of about 30 library professionals (with and without health backgrounds) about effective project management.
The third Leading Edge Workshop took place in March with 11 in attendance. NAHLA was pleased to have Denise Koufogiannakis speak about evidence-based librarianship and share advice on how to use research effectively to better one’s practice.

The final event being planned for the year is NAHLA’s annual spring TRENDS Mini-Conference, occurring in early May. CHLA is providing funds through their Chapter Initiatives Fund program, and the Southern Alberta Health Libraries Association is also contributing to the event. The partnership with SAHLA will allow for expanded relationship-building opportunities as several of their members will be attending. The afternoon will begin with a lunch followed by three sessions. Jeff Mason, a guest speaker from the Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region, will start with a presentation on health information literacy. Allison Sivak will provide an orientation to service assessment while Sandy Campbell, Thane Chambers, and Dale Storie will end the day with a talk on teaching faculty and residents new technologies, in particular Real Simple Syndication.