

What did the members of the Concordia Colloquium and FLEAT I have to do with the founding of IALL?

Joseph Sheehan, Last President of NALLD

In July 1981, the President of the National Association of Language Laboratory Directors (NALLD) gave a plenary address at the Concordia Colloquium on Language Laboratories in Montreal. In attendance at the conference were several officers of the Association as well as numerous members from Canada. In informal meetings in Montreal it was often noted that the title of the Association using "National" was no longer really descriptive since members came from over 25 nations. In addition, some felt that the phrase "Language Laboratory Directors" was non-inclusive as it was not descriptive of the positions held by any of the members. These points were also discussed by the NALLD board.

Shortly afterwards, in August of the same year, the same topic resurfaced at the First International Conference on Foreign Language Education and Technology (FLEAT I). After the Conference, the NALLD board voted to make the changes suggested by members and colleagues. Sam Burggraaf, the Executive Director, was authorized to prepare a new constitution. It was presented to the board, which approved it and, in fact, dis-established NALLD after 16 years of growth.

On November 28, 1981 the last meeting of NALLD was held and the next day the first meeting of the International Association for Learning Laboratories (IALL) took place, with President Victor Aulestia presiding. He had been Vice-President and President-Elect of NALLD.