Timeline of the delivery of health knowledge in Canada, related events in the USA and the world, and additional contemporaneous events

1823		McGill Faculty of Medicine Library, the oldest medical library in Canada, was founded (http://www.health.library.mcgill.ca/ OSLER/exhibits/175th/begins.htm).
1836		First railway in Canada (between La Prairie and St. Jean, Quebec) opened.
1851		Melvil Dewey, father of librarianship, was born.
		Library of the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army (the present National Library of Medicine) established (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/about/nlmhistory.html).
1858		Margaret Ridley Charlton was born. Charlton was the first Assistant Librarian at the McGill Medical Library and a founder of the Medical Library Association (http://www.health.library.mcgill.ca/osler/charlton/).
1865		John Shaw Billings was appointed to supervise the Surgeon General's Library, which Billings developed into a national resource of biomedical literature. Billings served as director until 1895.

1876	000 Generalities 100 Philosophy & psychology 200 Religion 300 Social sciences 400 Language 500 Natural sciences & mathematics 600 Technology (Applied sciences) 700 The arts 800 Literature & rhetoric 900 Geography & history		Dewey Decimal System was invented.
1890			John Shaw Billings was assigned the responsibility to tabulate the US census. Billings described an electromechanical punch card mechanism that a statistician named Herman Hollerith developed. Hollerith later founded International Tabulating Machines, which became International Business Machines (IBM).
1898			Medical Library Association was founded (http://www.mlanet.org/about/history/milestones.html).
1901			Population of Canada was 5 371 051.
			Canadian and McGill graduate William Osler served as president of the Medical Library Association 1901–1904.
1906			Vancouver Medical Association established library precursor of the British Columbia (B.C.) Medical Library Service.
1911			A Plea for a National Library by Lawrence J. Burpee (*University Magazine*, 1911 Feb;10(1):152–63) was published (http://www.uoguelph.ca/~lbruce/documents/burpee.html).
1923	 Charles Best and Frederick Banting		Nobel Prize awarded to Frederick Banting and Charles Best for the discovery of insulin.
1925			Canadian women received the right to vote.
1928			Margaret Gill appointed the first official chief librarian of the National Research Council (NRC). Gill inherited a minuscule collection of 1000 titles (http://cisti-icist.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/media/news/cn16n5_e.html#three).
1933			*Libraries in Canada: A Study of Library Conditions and Need* (Toronto: Ryerson Press; Chicago: American Library Association) was published (http://www.uoguelph.ca/~lbruce/documents/LibrariesCanada.htm).

1937		🇨🇦	Rowell-Sirois Commission appointed to investigate the financial relationship between the federal government and the provinces.
1946		🇨🇦	Canadian Library Association was founded.
1951		🇨🇦	Canada's population was over 14 million.
			Findings of the *Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters, and Sciences*. (Chapter IX, Libraries, National Library and Library of parliament, Ottawa: King's Printer) were published. The Commission declared "that a National Library finds no place among the federal institutions which we have been required to examine is a remarkable fact which has been occasion of much sharp comment during our sessions. Over ninety organizations have discussed this matter, some in great detail, urging that what has been called a 'national disgrace' be remedied" (http://www.collectionscanada.ca/2/5/h5-416-e.html).
1953		🇨🇦	National Library of Canada (NLC) established. The NLC's mandate was the following: • to preserve the documentary heritage of Canada for the benefit of present and future generations • to be a source of enduring knowledge accessible to all, contributing to the cultural, social and economic advancement of Canada • to facilitate in Canada cooperation among communities involved in the acquisition, preservation and diffusion of knowledge • to serve as the continuing memory of the government of Canada and its institutions
1956		🇺🇸	Act of Congress moved Armed Forces Medical Library to the Public Health Service and rechristened it the National Library of Medicine (NLM) (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/about/nlmhistory.html).
1957		🇨🇦	NRC library unofficially assumed the role of national science library (NSL).
1959		🇨🇦	Agreement made between NRC library and NLC on concentrating its activities in the fields of social science and humanities, thereby securing the national role of the NRC science library.

1960			Prime Minister John Diefenbaker introduced Canada's first bill of rights.
			College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia established the B.C. Medical Library Service (https://www.cpsbc.ca/cps/college_library/information/admin_history).
1961			*The present state of library service in Canada: A program of inquiry for 1960/61* (Ottawa: Canadian Library Association) was published.
1962			Committee on Medical Science Libraries of the Canadian Library Association presented a brief to the Royal Commission on Health Services that recommended a National Medical Bibliographic Centre be established in the near future.
			Resources of Canadian university libraries for research in the humanities and social sciences: Report of a survey for the National Conference of Canadian Universities and Colleges by Edwin E. Williams (Ottawa: National Conference of Canadian Universities and Colleges) was published.
1963			US President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, in his Special Message to Congress on National Health Needs, stated the following: The accumulation of knowledge is of little avail if it is not brought within reach of those who can use it. Faster and more complete communication from scientist to scientist is needed, so that their research efforts reinforce and complement each other, from researcher to practicing physician, so that new knowledge can save lives as swiftly as possible, and from the health professions to the public, so that people may act to protect their own health.
1964			*Library support of medical education and research in Canada: Report of a survey of the medical college libraries of Canada, together with suggestions for improving and extending medical library service at local, regional and national levels* by Beatrice V. Simon (Ottawa: Association of Canadian Medical Colleges) was published. The report recommended the following: • that a National Medical Bibliographic Centre be established in the near future • that a percentage of all medical research grants from federal agencies be made available to libraries to alleviate the strain imposed by research programs
			Social insurance cards introduced.

			MEDLARS was implemented by the NLM with the first automated printing of *Index Medicus*.
1965			Maple leaf flag introduced.
			Medical Library Assistance Act (MLAA) gave NLM responsibility of helping the nation's medical libraries through a grant program and created the Regional Medical Library Network (now the National Network of Libraries of Medicine). MLAA brought about unprecedented growth and development of medical library services, including the following: • built, expanded, and constructed more than 86 medical school libraries, representing the greatest expansion in the history of medical school libraries • brought about the growth of hospital libraries during the 1970s, expanding both space and facilities • awarded training grants to medical librarians to meet the special needs of health science libraries and the medical communities they serve • offered training grants in the application of computer technology to the health sciences • created MLA research grant program that supports basic research in health sciences librarianship and computers in medicine • established the Resource Grants Program to assist public or private, nonprofit health sciences libraries in establishing, expanding, or improving their resource and information services • brought about an almost 700% increase in the number of hospital librarians with MLA degrees from 1969 to 1984 • developed the Regional Medical Library Program, with a network of over 3500 libraries, to provide health professionals with timely and convenient access to health care and biomedical resources • established the Integrated Academic Information Management Systems program to support development of networks that facilitate the flow of recorded biomedical knowledge throughout academic health science centers and hospitals
1966			*A National Library Resource Centre for the Health Sciences in Canada: The Report of a Committee to the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges and to the Committee on Medical Science Libraries of the Canadian Library Association* (widely referred to as the Firstbrook Report) was published.

1966			NSL recognized as a national library of health sciences for Canada (http://cisti-icist.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/media/news/cn16n5_e.shtml#one).
1967			Health Sciences Resource Centre established at NSL.
			Resources of Canadian academic and research libraries by Robert B. Downs (Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada) was published.
1968			Advent of online searching was instituted with the nine libraries accessing the SUNY Biomedical Communication Network Index Medicus database.
1969			Arpanet, precursor of the Internet, was developed. First system crash occurred when the letter "g" was typed in the very first "Login" (http://www.walthowe.com/navnet/history.html).
1971			MEDLINE became operational.
1972			CAN/OLE was created, the first real-time information tracking system in Canada, introduced by NSL.
1974			NSL moved into its new building. "In February 1974…Jack E. Brown had brought his dream into reality: extending the tentacles of a national network for disseminating scientific information" (http://collection.nlc-bnc.ca/100/201/301/cisti_news/html/1999/16n05/cn16n5.html#4).
1976			Canadian Health Libraries Association / Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada (CHLA / ABSC) was formed (http://www.chla-absc.ca/).
1986			Grateful Med introduced user-friendly MEDLINE searching.
1987			*Libraries Without Walls: Report of a Survey of Health Science Library Collections and Services in Canada* by M.A. Flower, a Joint Project of the Special Resource Committee on Medical School Libraries (SRCMSL) of the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges (ACMC) and the Canadian Health Libraries Association (CHLA), was published (http://www.chla-absc.ca/documents/wallsfinal.pdf). The report recommended the following: • that the Canadian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI), with SRCMSL, establish a task force on harnessing technology for health sciences information

		• that the ACMC invite the Dean of Medicine at each of Canada's 16 medical schools to establish an Information Management Council to deal with health sciences information provision within the region served • that ACMC's SRCMSL and the CHLA establish a joint committee to deal with problems of interlibrary sharing of information resources in health sciences fields • that ACMC's SRCMSL and the CHLA appoint a work party to grapple realistically with recurrent problems of underfunding and propose defensible plans for more adequate funding as required for the future • that the Health Sciences Resource Centre at CISTI, as a national centre, clearing house, and research base, be maintained and strengthened Attention was also drawn to particular problems facing francophone health sciences libraries in Canada.
1990	🇨🇦	Health Science Information Consortium of Toronto established (http://www.library.utoronto.ca/hsict/consorthist.htm).
1992	🇬🇧	Cumberlege seminars identified objectives to improve management of the health care knowledge base in the UK.
1993	🇨🇦	CISTI's Health Sciences Resource Centre closed.
		Alberta Health Knowledge network established (http://www.hkn.ca/overview.htm).
1994	🇨🇦	DOCLINE introduced in Canada, first implementation of DOCLINE outside the US (http://cisti-icist.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/health/docline_e.shtml). CISTI created position of DOCLINE Coordinator to handle the Canadian administration of the system. (DOCLINE is the NLM's automated interlibrary loan request routing and referral system. The purpose of the system is to provide efficient document delivery service among libraries in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine) (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/docline/newdocline.html).
1995	🇨🇦	HealthLINC concept paper submitted to Health Canada by Joanne Marshall (http://ils.unc.edu/%7Emarshall/nnhl/hcansia.htm).
	🇬🇧	UK National Health Service Executive Library Adviser appointed.
		The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews launched in London by British Minister for Health.
1996	🇨🇦	Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada – Canadian Association of Research Libraries Task Force on Academic Libraries and Scholarly Communication released report calling for a national strategy for securing scholarly content in digital formats, as one means of addressing the chronic erosion of library collections supporting university research and teaching (http://researchknowledge.ca/about/history/).
1997	🇨🇦	Health Libraries Assistance Act proposal submitted to Allan Rock, Minister of Health, by Jim Henderson of the B.C. Medical Library Service.

1997–1998	Canadian Health Libraries Association Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada	The vision of *The Role of Health Libraries and Library Professionals in a National Health Information Network in Canada* was • adopted by the CHLA / ABSC Board of Directors on 27 October 1997 • adopted by the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation on 8 November 1997 • endorsed by the Association of Canadian Teaching Hospitals in February 1998 • ratified by the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges / Association des facultés de médecine du Canada Board of Directors on 23 April 1998 (http://www.chla-absc.ca/assoc/vision.html)
1998		Health Canada commissioned the development of a concept paper to show the value of a national network of health libraries, to clearly define stakeholder benefits, and to recommend strategies upon which to proceed. Principal investigator was Joanne Marshall (http://ils.unc.edu/~marshall/nnhl/welcome.htm).
		CISTI hosted meeting to discuss a national network of health libraries (http://cisti-icist.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/media/health_e.shtml).
		Canadian Nursing Association's Helen K. Mussallem Library closed.
1999	Health info for every **body** Des infos qui font corps avec votre **santé**	Canadian Health Network was launched: "CHN's mission is to support Canadians in making informed choices about their health, by providing access to multiple sources of credible and practical e-health information." CHN's vision was to become "your preferred choice in Canada for helpful, e-health information you can trust" (http://www.canadian-health-network.ca/).
2000	Canadian Health Libraries Association Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada	CHLA / ABSC established the National Network of Libraries for Health / Réseau national des bibliothèques pour la santé (NNLH / RNBS), CHLA / ABSC Steering Group with the support of Health Canada (http://chla-absc.ca/task/nnlh.html). The following was CHLA / ABSC's vision for the NNLH / RNBS (http://www.chla-absc.ca/nnlh/vision.html): The National Network of Libraries for Health / Réseau national des bibliothèques pour la santé (NNLH / RNBS) will ensure that all health care providers in Canada will have equal access to the best information for patient care. It is designed to fit the Canadian health care model and fill in the information gaps inherent in a complex health delivery system.
2002		CHLA / ABSC Steering Group folded into Task Force.
2004		The Canadian Cochrane Collaboration and the NNLH / RNBS Task Force jointly authored a proposal to Health Canada to network the Cochrane Library nationally. The proposal was rejected, and Health Canada withdrew from NNLH / RNBS activities.

			Task Force held a "prestakeholders" meeting at the Cochrane Colloquium in Ottawa to determine whether there was support to continue with the NNLH / RNBS project and its planned Stakeholders meeting. There was support.
June 2005	NNLH RNBS	🍁	NNLH / RNBS Task Force held a successful Stakeholders Meeting on 17 June 2005, with the generous support of CISTI. (Thanks are also due to Wiley, Ovid, Ebsco, and McGraw Hill.)

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