The Access to Electronic Legal Information Committee (AELIC) 2006-07 successfully completed several projects this year, updated its action plan for the 2007-08 year, and initiated other projects that the 2007-08 committee will continue.

The State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources (http://www.aallnet.org/committee/aelic/index.html) was completed and published with AELIC 2005-06 Chair Richard Matthews as Editor-in-Chief and Associate Washington Affairs Representative Mary Alice Baish as Executive Editor. The Report outlined the important investigation of six sources of law in every state: state administrative codes and registers, state statutes and session laws, and state high and intermediate appellate court opinions. Congratulations and thanks to all AELIC and GRC members, state law librarians and other state authors for their diligent and superb work on the Report.

AELIC members participated in “Authentic Legal Information in the Digital Age: A National Summit” in Schaumburg, IL on April 20-21, 2007. Fifty delegates, including AALL members and leaders from the judiciary and the legal community, from state governments and from interested organizations and associations, participated in the summit and discussed issues relating to the crucial question addressed in the State-by-State report – “How trustworthy are state-level primary legal resources on the Web?” See http://www.aallnet.org/summit/default.asp for more information about the summit, including materials presented at the summit. One AELIC program at the 2007 Annual Meeting, “AELIC’s Survey on Authentication of Government Information: A Year Later and Still Challenging,” addressed the authentication issue and the summit further. Three summit delegates, AALL President Sally Holterhoff, AALL Associate Washington Affairs Representative Mary Alice Baish, and D.C. Superior Court Judge Herbert Dixon Jr. were speakers at the program. In addition to this program, AELIC presented a second program at the 2007 Annual Meeting: “At the Top of the Rise: Government Web Sites That Have Met the Challenge”. AELIC members Karen Wallace, Joan Shear, Terrye Conroy, Warren Rees, and Jane Edwards discussed the “best” government Web sites that adhere to the AELIC established principles and core values for government Web sites.

A subcommittee of members Joan Shear and Jane Edwards led the committee to prepare a new document, Principles and Core Values Concerning Public Information on Government Web Sites, which outlines important criteria for Web sites. The principles and core values cover issues relating to accessibility, reliability, official status, comprehensiveness, and preservation. The AALL Executive Board approved AELIC’s document in March 2007 and the document was subsequently published in pamphlet format. Copies of the Principles and Core Values pamphlet were placed in the Annual Meeting bags for all 2007 attendees and were distributed at the AELIC table in the activities area of the exhibit hall.

An AELIC subcommittee, chaired by Karen Wallace, drafted Guidelines for Evaluating a Legal Web Site. AELIC shared the guidelines with AALL members at the 2007 Annual Meeting and solicited member input about the guidelines through several avenues,
including a survey, a presentation to the Legal Information Services to the Public SIS, a newspaper article, and at the “At the Top of the Rise” program. Anyone who wishes to share additional comments about the guidelines can visit the AELIC Web site and click on the survey URL there. AELIC 2007-08 will continue to work on the guidelines.

AELIC submitted its 2006-07 activities and action plan for 2007-08 to the AALL Executive Board in February 2007. The action plan for 2007-08 outlines eight activities that the 2007-08 AELIC expects to accomplish during the coming year. Committee members for the 2006-07 Access to Electronic Legal Information Committee were Pauline Afuso, Terrye Conroy, Jane Edwards, Emily M. Janoski-Haehlen, Anita Postyn, Warren Rees, Joan Shear and Karen Wallace. Steven P. Anderson served as the Executive Board liaison to the AELIC.

Timothy L. Coggins, Chair
2006-07