The majority of the Access to Electronic Legal Information Committee (AELIC) activities this year were devoted to further refining and publicizing committee initiatives begun in the past with an eye towards creating sustainable mechanisms for carrying them into the future.

The committee took a number of actions designed to increase the circulation and awareness of the pamphlet drafted by the committee and approved by the AALL Executive Board last year: *Principles and Core Values Concerning Public Information on Government Web Sites*. Committee member Karen Silber worked with Chapter presidents and newsletter editors to increase publicity for the Core Values within AALL. All members of the committee took copies of the pamphlet to distribute at Chapter meetings and other places where AALL has a presence. The committee revised and completed the guidance document for government Web sites referred to in a footnote of the Values statement, which has been mounted on the committee Web site. Committee member Jane Edwards took the lead on this project.

Committee Webmaster Emily Janoski-Haehlen did significant work on the AELIC Web site this year, adding content and bringing it into ADA compliance. The AELIC site will be frozen in time in July as an archival site with the formation of the new joint committee with a brand new Web site.

As a follow-up to last year’s program “Top of the Rise: Government Web Sites That Have Met the Challenge,” the committee solicited comments on draft *Guidelines for Evaluating a Legal Website* using a SurveyMonkey survey. We received 29 sets of comments that were considered in the edit of the guidelines, which can be found on the AELIC Web page.

The committee took a number of steps this year to increase awareness of the AALL 2007 *Authentication Report* within AALL. Mary Alice Baish spoke at the MichALL conference in May about AALL authentication efforts. Since Mary Alice does not have the time or funding to visit all the Chapters, the committee is developing a toolkit for its members to be the presenters at their own Chapter meetings. David Badertscher will be the first member to implement this plan as he is making arrangements for a similar presentation on the Authentication Report at an upcoming LLAGNY meeting.

AELIC’s AALL 2008 Program, “Official but Not Authentic: The Future of Electronic Legal Information,” takes the Authentication Report one step further, bringing two speakers from the 2007 AALL National Summit on Authentication to the membership, and updating them on recent developments in this area including the forthcoming appointment of a study committee by the National Conference of Commissioners of Uniform State Laws.

Outside AALL, the Authentication Report was presented on the report at Court Technology Conference 10 by last year’s chair, Tim Coggins, and Mary Alice Baish.
David Badertscher increased the visibility of the report outside AALL by publishing in a number of electronic forums including the two blogs he publishes, New York Supreme Court Criminal Term Library blog and Criminal Law Library Blog. He also wrote a post for Lexology. Pauline Afuso publicized committee initiatives at a recent ABA Equal Justice Conference in Minneapolis.

The committee has also drafted a number of shorter summaries of the Report for use as press releases, handouts, or “talking points” targeted at specific audiences including government officials, librarians, and members of the general public. These can also be found on the AELIC Web site.

One major task was working with the Citation Formats Committee and the AALL Executive Board liaisons to create a new charge for the newly combined Electronic Legal Information Access and Citation Committee (ELIAC) which will combine the initiatives of the two separate committees into a unified action plan that recognizes citation format as one of the very important ways to guarantee access to essential legal information in the digital age. The goal of the new committee will be to promote public access to electronic legal information as well as usability and uniformity in citation that is consistent with the move toward electronic information.

The committee’s request that Mary Alice Baish be appointed AALL Staff Liaison was granted. This will help facilitate greater cooperation with other policy and advocacy committees within AALL. We hope that in the future ELIAC will be able to develop policies, set goals, draft sample documents, and then turn to the Government Relations Committee for help building up grass-roots support.

Finally, the committee set about outlining an updating plan for the Authentication Report. It is hoped that the report be turned into an online database that can be accessed by the public for current information on the status of electronic legal information and citation formats in all states. This project will require additional volunteers not on the committee to take responsibility for following particular states and notifying us when particular milestones in the authentication process happen in their states. The plan should also discuss the method for displaying this information on the AELIC Web site.

Committee members for 2007-08 were Pauline S. Afuso, David Badertscher, Thomas R. Boone, Jane Edwards, Ann H. Jeter, Emily Janoski-Haeahlen, Warren D. Rees, Joan Shear, and Karen W. Silber. The Board Liaison was Steven P. Anderson and the Staff Liaison was Mary Alice Baish.

Joan Shear, Chair
2007-08