American Association of Law Libraries Digital Access to Legal Information Committee 2010-2011 Annual Report

The committee proposed a name change this year, and the AALL Board approved the committee’s recommendation to change the committee name from the Electronic Legal Information Access and Citation Committee to the Digital Access to Legal Information Committee.

The committee focused on five major issues: (a) authentication and preservation of digital legal information; (b) universal citation; (c) guidelines for evaluating government information on the web; (d) assisting with the revision to the AALL Government Relations Policy; and (e) education. Additionally, the committee handled other responsibilities, such as the development of a national legal inventory, preparing a budget request to the Board, and evaluating how the AALL website revision would affect the committee work and access to committee information and advocacy documents.

Committee members continued to support activities relating to the development of a uniform act about the authentication preservation and public access of digital legal information. In July 2011 the Uniform Law Commission approved the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. This is a significant advocacy achievement for AALL, but much work remains to encourage states to adopt this uniform act. Special thanks to AALL members Barbara Bintliff, reporter of the drafting committee, and Keith Ann Stiverson, AALL official representative to the drafting committee.

There were two significant achievements with universal citation this year, both of which started under previous year’s committees. Committee members read and submitted comments about a “Citation White Paper.” John Cannan, Timothy Coggins, and Jennifer Laws assumed the responsibility of finalizing the edits and arranging for publication in the Law Library Journal. The “Citation White Paper” will appear in the LLJ August issue. Another subcommittee, headed by Tina Ching, began a review of the current edition of the “AALL Citation Manual.” The committee made considerable progress and will continue its work during the coming year, resulting in the publication of a third edition of the “Citation Manual” as part of the AALL Publications series.

Anne Burnett chaired a subcommittee reviewing the guidelines for evaluating government information on the web. The subcommittee submitted a draft of the revised guidelines to the full committee, and the committee will complete its review of the guidelines during the coming year.

Timothy Coggins, Anita Postyn, and Elaine Apostola submitted a draft of revisions to the AALL Government Relations Policy to the committee for its review. After the committee review, Timothy Coggins worked with Mary Alice Baish (through January) and Julie Strandlie (beginning in April) to finalize the policy revision for review by other policy committees and submission to the AALL Board for its review at its July 2011 meeting. The AALL Board adopted the newly revised Government Relations Policy at its July meeting.
The committee organized and presented “Authentication: the Evolution Continues” at the 2011 Annual Meeting. Speakers were members of the Uniform Law Commission Drafting Committee: Michele Timmons, chair, and Barbara Bintliff, reporter. Committee members participated in the AALL Advocacy Workshop at the Annual Meeting and staffed the DALIC Exhibit Hall table at the AALL Annual Meeting. Elaine Apostola and Tina Ching represented DALIC at the CONELL Marketplace.

Committee members 2010-2011 were Timothy Coggins, chair; Tina Ching, vice chair; Elaine Apostola; Anne Burnett, secretary (1/11-7/11); A. Hays Butler (8/10-12/10); John Cannan; Barbara Fritschel; Jennifer Laws; Matthew Novak; Anita Postyn; Michael Roffer, webmaster; David Walker; Jacqueline Woodside; and Marcia Zubrow. The committee Board liaison was Ruth Hill, and the AALL staff liaison was Mary Alice Baish (until her resignation from AALL) and Julie Strandlie (after her appointment as the director of the AALL Government Relations Office).

Timothy L. Coggins
Chair, 2010-2011