AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

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Committee Name: Digital Access to Legal Information Committee

Committee Charge: The Committee shall use principles of the law library profession to identify web site characteristics and citation rules that represent best practices, and to encourage all branches of government to apply these principles in the creation and maintenance of electronic legal information. These principles include permanent public access, authenticity, citizen usability, uniformity of citation consistent with AALL policy, comprehensiveness and suitability for legal research, and they reflect the special concerns and unique competencies of law librarians.

The Committee will monitor and promote judicial, legislative and executive branch web sites at all levels of government to apply best practices in the creation and maintenance of electronic legal information. The committee will develop and maintain a web-based framework to categorize the various principles being successfully addressed by those sites.

In addition, the Committee shall monitor and promote citation initiatives and activities undertaken by the judiciary, the bar, the ABA, the Bluebook editors and other groups. The Committee will also serve as a resource for jurisdictions and other groups considering citation issues.

The Committee shall be responsible for advising the Association and its membership about issues relating to electronic legal information access and citation, and may be called upon to collaborate with other committees, including the Government Relations Committee.

Major Activities for 2011-2012:

The major activities of the Digital Access to Legal Information Committee involve advocating for no-fee, permanent public access to authentic online legal information in the public domain.

General Activities
- Pursuing educational and outreach opportunities such as writing newsletter and bar journal articles on UELMA and universal citation to continue advocacy efforts ensuring permanently accessible, authentic digital legal resources
- Participate in Public Policy Program at 2012 AALL Annual Meeting

Universal Citation
- Citation White Paper was published in the Summer 2011 Law Library Journal
- Began work on 3rd Edition of the AALL Universal Citation Guide to be published by Hein
- Proposed program on universal citation for the 2012 AALL Annual Meeting
- Poster session on universal citation to be proposed for the 2012 AALL Annual Meeting
- Commented on VoxPopuLII post on "Universal Citation for State Codes" promoting AALL’s continuing efforts in the area of universal citation and clarifying our past efforts
- Reviewed AALL Government Relations letter commenting on the Colorado Court's Public Domain Citation Proposal

Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act
- Proposed program on UELMA for the 2012 AALL Annual Meeting
- Submitted program on UELMA for 2012 e-Courts Conference held by the National Center for State Courts
- Submitted budget request to the AALL Finance and Budget Committee to obtain funds for programming the e-Courts Conference

National Inventory of Legal Materials
- Reviewing National Inventory of Legal Materials and developing new state by state report on digital legal resources which will help advocate for no-fee, permanent public access to authentic online legal information
- Published VoxPopuLII post, co-authored with Emily Feltren, Director of Government Relations, "Protecting Access One Entry At a Time: An Update on the National Inventory of Legal Materials"
- Submitted budget requests to the AALL Finance and Budget Committee to obtain funding for wiki providing an appropriate platform for our updated version of the state by state report on digital legal resources
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Proposed Activities for 2012-2013:

- Continue to develop best practices for government web sites;
- Investigate a wiki or other system for future updates to the 2007 State-By-State Report on Authentication of Digital Legal Resources, as subsequently updated;
- Provide assistance and advocacy in enacting UELMA in state legislatures;
- Plan and provide programming on authentication, preservation and public policy at the 2013 Annual Meeting;
- Provide a program about authentication at the Court Technology Conference;
- Publicize Citation White Paper and continue efforts to gain support for vendor neutral citation.