The Committee focused its work on three major areas: advocating for the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (UELMA), access to online legal resources, and universal citation.

Members pursued educational and outreach opportunities advocating for the passage of UELMA. This included writing newsletter, blog, and bar journal articles. In addition, we presented a session at the legislative advocacy training where we gave a UELMA status update and discussed tips on how to be an effective advocate for the passage of UELMA.

In our efforts to promote access to online legal resources, we concluded an update of our “Guidelines for Evaluating Government Information on the Web”. In addition, Jackie Woodside and Michael Roffer led the way in evaluating the new My Communities site, instructed members on navigation, and migrated and organized relevant committee documents.

One of the Committee’s goals was to review the National Inventory of Legal Materials and use the information to develop a new state by state report on digital legal resources which would help advocate for no-fee, permanent public access to authentic online legal information. We submitted a budget request to obtain funding for an appropriate online platform for our report. The request was approved and we hope that it will be a valuable resource for all AALL groups in the near future. In the meantime, we will continue to work with the Government Relations office to evaluate the information provided by the state working groups and ensure that we are providing accurate and reliable information.

In recognition of the state working groups in developing their inventories, we co-authored a post on VoxPopuLII with the Director of Government Relations. It includes an update on the national inventory of legal materials and preliminary analysis of the information provided by the working groups.

We are currently charged with promoting Universal Citation. Last summer, we published the Citation White Paper in Law Library Journal. A subcommittee made great headway in developing a third edition of the Universal Citation Guide. The goal is to develop an easier to use, more practical guide so courts, states, and journals will continue to easily adopt the system. We commented on a blog post promoting AALL’s continuing efforts in the area of universal citation and clarifying our past efforts. We reviewed the AALL letter supporting Colorado Court’s Public Domain Citation proposal.

Major activities at the AALL Annual Meeting included: a poster session developed by Anne Burnett on “Universal Citation in 60 Seconds”; an exhibit hall table coordinated by Anne Burnett and Jennifer Laws; representation at the CONELL Marketplace by Elaine Apostola and Michael Roffer; and an update and preview of committee activities at the Public Policy Program.

Committee members for 2011-12 included: Tina Ching, Chair; A. Hays Butler, Vice Chair; Susan Lewis, Board Liaison; Emily Feltren, Staff Liaison; Elaine Apostola; Anne Burnett; Barbara Fritschel, Secretary (1/12-6/12); Sarah Gotschall; Jennifer Laws; Jane O’Connell; Anita Postyn; Michael Roffer, Webmaster; Jacqueline Woodside, Secretary (7/11-12/12).

Tina S. Ching
Chair, 2011-2012