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


One of the Committee’s main goals continued to be, as it was last year, to review the National Inventory of Legal materials and use the information to develop a new state by state report on digital resources which would help advocate for no-fee, permanent public access to legal resources. The Committee worked with Emily Feltren, the Director of Government Relations and Elizabeth Holland, Public Policy Associate, to develop a chart to show the status of online digital resources on a state by state basis. The Committee also worked to develop an appropriate online platform that would enable the Committee to update the information for each state. The new site is available at http://community.aallnet.org/DigitalAccessToLegalInformationCommittee/Home/.

The Committee is also charged with promoting Universal Citation. A subcommittee chaired by Anne Burnett completed its work on a third edition of the Universal Citation Guide and submitted the third edition for publication to Hein. The goal was to develop an easier to use, more practical guide. Committee members presented on universal citation during the SEAALL chapter meeting and contributed an article on universal citation to AALL Spectrum.

One of the major efforts of the Committee this year was to update AALL’s Preservation Policy which had not been updated since 1998. The policy was quite dated. For example, it said nothing about the preservation of digital documents. The Committee partnered with the Technical Services SIS and the two groups formed a drafting group to update the policy. After months of work the drafting group submitted a proposed update of the policy to the Executive Board which adopted the update at its Board meeting at the Seattle Annual Meeting in July, 2013.

Major activities at the AALL Annual Meeting in Seattle included presenting a program on State Based Advocacy: Tales From the Trenches and Tips for Success in Your State, coordinated by Catherine Dunn, and also participating in the AALL Public Policy Update; staffing an exhibit hall table; and participating in the CONELL Marketplace.

Committee members for 2012-2013 included: A. Hays Butler, Chair; Anne Burnett, Vice-Chair; Susan Lewis, Board Liaison; Emily Feltren, Staff Liaison; Jane Larrington, Jane O’Connell; Abigail Bibee; Scott Childs; Connie Lenz; Catherine Dunn; Sarah Gotschall; Konya Lafferty; Deborah Norwood; and Jacqueline Woodside.

A. Hays Butler, Chair, 2012-2013