AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

Committee Name: Electronic Legal Information Access & Citation (ELIAC) 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 2008-2009:

ELIACC's 2008-09 major activities include:

--updating the data originally gathered for the 2007 State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources (http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/authenreport.asp);
--drafting a white paper on citation reform. Contributors include Kathy Carlson, State Librarian of Wyoming, Carol Billings, a founder of the AALL citation reform initiative, and the Hon. Yvonne Kauger, Justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma, a court which has Web-published its entire archive of decisions in a free database;
--collaborating with the American Bar Association to produce a program at AALL's 2009 annual meeting on advocating for permanent public access to electronic government information;
--meeting (Mary Alice Baish) with the Obama Administration Transition Team to advocate government responsibility for the entire lifecycle of its public information;
--providing regional AALL programming on authentication (http://www.criminallawlibraryblog.com/2008/11/lagny_aall_program_authentic_1.html).

Proposed Activities for 2009-2010:

ELIACC's primary goal for 2008-09 has been effective integration of its two predecessor committees to provide leadership, education, and advocacy regarding E-LifeCycle Management of electronic government information. Going forward, the committee will need to:

--continue documenting authentication and citation reform efforts;
--refine the relationship between authentication and citation reform;
--seek additional partners, and continue working with the American Bar Association, to advocate for public access; and
--continue reaching out within AALL to be sure members understand the importance of public access.