AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

Name: Timothy L. Coggins
Title: Chair
Email: tcoggins@richmond.edu

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

Committee Charge: 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 2010-2011:

ELIACC's 2010-2011 major activities include:

-- Completed the editing of the Citation White Paper, which will be published in the Law Library Journal;
-- Began the process of completing technical edits to the AALL Citation Manual;
-- Worked with the AALL GRO to host a meeting of interested stakeholders about the citation reform question;
-- Collaborated with the Government Relations Committee, the Copyright Committee, and the GRO to revise the AALL Government Relations Policy, incorporating the AELIC (now ELIACC) core principles and values;
-- Assisted through comments with the NCCUSL on its draft uniform law about authentication and preservation (chair attended the Fall NCCUSL meeting about the uniform law);
-- Planned and will provide programming on authentication, preservation, and public policy at the 2011 AALL annual meeting;
-- Began a sub-committee to work on the best practices for government websites;
-- Submitted a budget proposal to the AALL Finance and Budget Committee to establish a state authentication and preservation award and to obtain funds for programming at the Court Technology Conference;
-- Planned a program about authentication and preservation, in collaboration with the GRO and the AALL's National Center for State Courts official representative, for the Court Technology Conference;
-- Submitted a recommendation to the AALL Executive Board to change the name of the ELIACC to the Digital Access to Legal Information Committee.

Proposed Activities for 2011-2012:

ELIACC's proposed activities for 2011-2012 include:

-- Publish the revised AALL Citation Manual and develop online version;
-- Publicize the Citation White Paper and continue efforts to gain support for vendor neutral citation, and in collaboration with others, develop a plan to implement it;
-- Continue advocating for authentication and preservation of digital state legal materials;
-- Investigate a wiki or other system for future updates to the 2007 State-by-State Report on Authentication of Digital Legal Resources, building on the 2009/10 updates;
-- Continue to develop best practices for government websites;
-- Present a program about authentication at the Court Technology Conference.