Indexing of Periodical Literature Committee 2010-2011 Annual Report

The 2010-2011 members of the committee are Barbara H. Garavaglia, chair; Monica Espitia, vice chair; Paula G. Doty; Tom Latuszek; Lea Ann Robertson; Nathan Aaron Rosen; Morgan Stoddard; Janet McKinney, Board liaison; and Hillary Baker, staff liaison.

During the course of the year the committee conducted business via email and its Google Docs page.

The committee completed work on revising the Journal Submission Guidelines relating to the indexing of electronic-only journals; it also revised the guidelines for print journals with only one issue or volume published. These minor revisions were approved by Gale and implemented by the committee in its journal reviews. The changes permit the committee to approve electronic journals for indexing as soon as the first issue is published rather than waiting for electronic-only journals to have been in existence for more than two years; they also permit the committee to approve for indexing print journals that only publish one issue or volume.

The committee completed 75 percent of the work on its initiative to identify, review, and make recommendations regarding new law school journals; identification of new law school journals was accomplished by reviewing the web pages of ABA-accredited law schools via the ABA website. To complete the initiative, schools from South Carolina through Yeshiva in the ABA list need review; this work remains for next year’s committee.

The committee reviewed 108 journal titles during 2010-2011. Of these, 100 journal titles were approved for indexing and eight titles were rejected. The committee’s recommendations were sent to Gale during the course of the year. Since July 2008, the committee has approved 230 titles for indexing in Legaltrac/LRI/CLI.

There are 16 titles remaining in the committee’s “to be considered” list of titles in Google Docs awaiting review by the 2011-2012 committee; of these, four titles are on hold awaiting the publication of the first issue, 11 titles were submitted just before the AALL conference because the committee did not have time to complete its review, and one title the committee could not reach agreement on. Questions relating to the title upon which agreement was not reached will need to be resolved by next year’s committee.

The committee did not complete its work on revising the submission guidelines to include online companions to journals nor did it complete work on drafting guidelines for indexing blogs. This initiative began several years ago, but had not been submitted to the AALL Executive Board for approval.

Once this omission was discovered, the committee submitted a request to the Executive Board to permit it to work on revising its charge to include indexing blogs and online companions. During the committee’s meeting in Philadelphia during the AALL Annual Meeting, the Executive Board communicated its approval of the committee’s proposal to work on revising the committee charge and to draft guidelines for indexing blogs. Work on this major initiative falls to the 2011-2012 committee.

The committee began work on revising its pages and community sections in the redesigned AALL website this year, but more work is needed. This work remains for the 2011-2012 committee. In addition, the 2010-2011 did not work on generating more journal title submissions from the AALL community as planned. The committee hopes that the newly redesigned AALL
website will facilitate effective communication with and participation by the larger AALL community.