In July 2008, the Research Committee and Publications Committees merged to form the Research and Publications Committee. The newly-merged committee took over the responsibilities of the previous committees.

Primary among the Research and Publication Committee’s responsibilities is its administration of two research grant programs: AALL/Wolters Kluwer Law & Business Grant Program and AALL Research Fund: An Endowment Established by LexisNexis®. To this end, the committee informs AALL members of the availability of the grants and grant-cycle deadlines, evaluates grant applications, selects grant recipients, determines award amounts, ensures that grant recipients comply with grant requirements, approves reports, and so on.

In 2008-2009, the committee received and reviewed seven applications for research grants. In the fall of 2008, the committee selected two grants for funding through the AALL/Wolters Kluwer Law & Business Grant Program: Scott Frey was awarded $1,500 for his project, “A Search Engine for Law-Related Public Domain Electronic Books,” and John Doyle was awarded $3,804 for his project, “Law Review Submissions.” In the spring of 2009, the committee selected one grant for funding through the AALL Research Fund: An Endowment Established by LexisNexis®. Georgia Briscoe was awarded $1,220 for her project, “Is Quality Control in Academic Law Library Online Catalogs Decreasing?”

The committee in 2008-2009 also approved final reports and/or final products from the following previously-awarded research grants: Wendy Scott and Christine Demetros’s project, “Merging Reference & Circulation Services: The Savior or Undoing of Reference in Academic Law Libraries,” and Jill Duffy and Elizabeth Lambert’s project, “Dissents from the Bench: A Compilation of Oral Dissents Issued by the U.S. Supreme Court Justices.” The committee thanks everyone who participated in the research grant competition and those whose generous support made the grants possible.

The committee fulfills a number of other AALL publication-related charges, including reviewing proposals for additions to the AALL Publication Series, published by William S. Hein & Co., Inc. Last year, the committee received one proposal for the series. The committee chair and the AALL director of publications conducted an initial review of the proposal for consistency with the AALL Publications Statement of Purpose, financial soundness, and general feasibility. Unfortunately, the proposal did not meet the threshold requirements for the series and was therefore not forwarded to the committee for a full review.

As this was the first year of the merged committee, there were numerous administrative tasks necessary to coordinate the functions of the Research and Publications Committees. None was more important or time-consuming than the creation of a website for the new committee. Nancy Babb graciously volunteered to act as the committee webmaster and contributed enormously to the launch of the new website. The committee would like to express its sincere appreciation to Ms. Babb.
The members of the 2008-2009 AALL Research and Publications Committee are: Annmarie Zell, chair; Pamela Melton, vice chair; Daniel R. Campbell; Jacqueline Cantwell; Annemarie Donovan; Debora Person; Adeen Postar; Margaret A. Schilt; Paula Seeger; Kama Sue Siegel; Maryruth Storer; and Sharon Wang.