During 2012-2013, the Research and Publication Committee prepared a revised AALL Research Agenda, administered the AALL research grant programs and the AALL Distinguished Lectureship Award, reviewed a proposal for a new publication for to the AALL Publication Series, and submitted several agenda items to the AALL Board.

The committee is charged with periodically reviewing and proposing changes to the AALL Research Agenda. The Research Agenda had last been revised in 2000. The task of revising the Research Agenda commenced in 2011-2012 with the formation of a subcommittee, meetings, and draft proposed revisions. The subcommittee’s efforts carried over into 2012-2013, involving collation of the prior drafts, review, editing, and further revisions following consultation with the committee’s Board Liaison. A proposed revised Research Agenda 2013-2016 was submitted to the AALL Board and was approved by the Board at its July meeting. It may be viewed at http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Member-Resources/grants/research-grants/research-agenda.html.

The Research and Publication Committee is responsible for administering AALL’s research grant programs. The committee informs AALL members of the availability of the grants and grant-cycle deadlines, evaluates grant applications, selects grant recipients, determines award amounts, assures that grant recipients comply with grant requirements, and approves reports.

In 2012-2013, the committee received and reviewed four applications for research grants funded through the AALL Research Fund: An Endowment Established by LexisNexis®. The committee selected for funding the application of Brian Anderson, Reference Librarian and Assistant Professor, Taggart Law Library, Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law, for his project entitled “Determining the Role of Law Libraries in the Republic of Rwanda: A Survey of Users, Uses, and Overall Legal Society.”

The committee in 2011-2012 approved final reports regarding research grants awarded during 2011-2012 from the AALL/Wolters Kluwer Law & Business Research Grant. It approved the final report of Julie Kimbrough and Leslie Anne Street for their project, “Assessing Collection and Holding Patterns for Print Primary Legal Materials: A Fifty-State Database,” and the final report of Melanie Oberlin and Robert Willey for their project, “Comparison of Research Speed and Accuracy Using Westlaw and WestlawNext.”

In July 2012, the committee was informed that Wolters Kluwer has decided not to continue to fund the AALL/Wolters Kluwer Law & Business Research Grant; Wolters Kluwer will instead focus its support on other AALL funding opportunities. The committee appreciates Wolters Kluwer’s generosity it showed in funding the Research Grant over many years. The committee prepared a motion presented by the committee as an agenda item to the AALL Board for the November meeting requesting that the Board take action to ensure stable funding for research grants in future years. The Board rejected the committee’s motion.
The committee also administers the AALL Distinguished Lectureship Award. This award was created by the AALL Executive Board to honor members with a unique perspective on the history, practice, or philosophy of law librarianship, who share their knowledge and expertise with other members in a lecture given at the annual meeting. The committee received three nominations. The committee selected Michael Chiorazzi, Associate Dean for Information Services, Director, Law Library, and Professor of Law, University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, as the recipient of the award. Dean Chiorazzi delivered his address, entitled “Training the Next Generation of Law Librarians: The Past as Prologue,” at the Annual Meeting in Seattle on July 15. The lecture will be published in the Law Library Journal at a future date.

The committee fulfills other AALL publication-related charges, including reviewing proposals for additions to the AALL Publication Series, published by William S. Hein & Co. The committee received one proposal for this series this year, by David Hollander, Law and Legal Studies Librarian, Princeton University, entitled Legal Scholarship in Jewish Law: An Research Bibliography Annotating Legal Literature Through 2013. The committee strongly recommended that this proposal be accepted for publication.

In addition to the agenda items noted above, the committee submitted two additional items to the Board, one that amended and clarified aspects of the selection process for the Distinguished Lectureship Award, and another that amended the research grant award requirements. Both sets of recommendations were accepted by the Board.

The members of the 2012-2013 AALL Research and Publications Committee were: Luis Acosta, Chair; James M. Donovan, Vice-Chair; Andrea Alexander, Terry Ballard, Julie Graves Krishnaswami, Sima Mirkin, Anna Guerra, Joseph Molinari, Dana Neascu, Michelle Thomas, and Xiaomeng Zhang.

Luis Acosta
Chair, 2012-2013