AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

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Committee Name: Committee on Relations with Information Vendors (CRIV)

Committee Charge: CHARGE: The Committee shall foster positive, constructive and open communication between information vendors and the membership of AALL in matters relating to provision of information in any format. The Committee shall support ongoing AALL educational initiatives and provide continuing educational opportunities for both AALL members and information vendors. The Committee shall serve as a forum and resource to provide constructive suggestions to vendors. The Committee shall foster a cooperative working relationship between librarians and information vendors. The Committee will select one (1) or more recipients every year for the New Product Award, or no recipient if it deems none of the nominees sufficiently qualified, and will submit the winning recipient's name(s) to the Awards Committee.

The Committee represents the interests of all AALL members, and neither it nor its members will represent or advocate for the benefit of only one publisher or information vendor when acting in their capacity as committee members.

Major Activities for 2008-2009:

CRIV Structure: Over the last few years CRIV has attempted to make some internal structural changes. In 2007 we tried to implement a more simplified subcommittee structure, with only three subcommittees: Education; Publication, and; Communications. However, the underlying work of CRIV just seems to lend itself to the more detailed subcommittee structure. So, we have continued to function under six subcommittees: Education; CRIV Page & Tools; CRIV Sheet; Member Advocacy; New Product Award, and; Site Visits.


CRIV also submitted a grant request to the AALL/BNA Continuing Education Grants Program for the current round of grants to enable us to present a webinar on the Shared Electronic Resources Understanding (SERU). The presenters are Karla Hahn (ARL) and Judy Luther (Informed Strategies), both of whom served on the NISO SERU Task Force. We are awaiting word on acceptance.

CRIV has also assumed responsibility for what was previously known as the ALL-SIS Vendor Roundtable at the Annual Meeting. 2008 was our first year of coordinating this event. It was well attended by vendors but the number of members in attendance was disappointing.

CRIV Page & Tools: Rob Myers, Chair of the subcommittee, has done a great deal of work on this. He presented a series of CRIV Tips in 2007-2008 which culminated in a program at AALL 2008 focusing on the CRIV Page. He solicited feedback about the site content via a survey he prepared for the program and lined up volunteers willing to help with content. This subcommittee performed a site content inventory in response to the AALLNET Committee's request. That was a very useful exercise combined with the work Rob had already undertaken to evaluate the site the previous year. We expect lots of changes, and hope to implement some Web 2.0 functionality to support some of the content, as the AALLNET Committee's work evolves.

CRIV Sheet and CRIV Notes: The CRIV Sheet continues to be the primary source for CRIV to communicate with the membership. Stephanie Marshall has done an excellent job as Editor and Joe Thomas, Assistant Editor, will take the helm next year.

Member Advocacy: The primary responsibility here lies with the Chair and it has been her/his role to respond to any vendor issues that members may raise. These typically come via e-mail from a member who has found the e-mail contact via the CRIV Page or law-lib.

New Product Award: CRIV continues to administer the New Product Award. This year the subcommittee for the award established a set of guidelines for the selection process which will be implemented going forward once they have received approval by the Board. CRIV felt the need to establish formal guidelines when no award was presented for several years in a row. In 2008 the award was presented to Cassidy...
Cataloguing. The award selection process for 2009 is not yet completed.

Site Visits: CRIV's work around the process of site visits fits into each of AALL's Strategic Goals: Leadership, Education and Advocacy. In 2007-2008 CRIV site visit subcommittee developed site visit guidelines, approved by the AALL Executive Board. In 2008-2009 we successfully implemented those guidelines for our visit to H.W. Wilson. The Guidelines help information vendors and CRIV members alike in setting expectations for site visits. We expect to continue to work within the guidelines on future visits.

Proposed Activities for 2009-2010:

The internal subcommittee structure of the committee should be reviewed. Some subcommittees have very little responsibility and the work could be more evenly distributed.

CRIV will continue coordination of what was the ALL-SIS Vendor Roundtable at the Annual Meeting which began in 2008. There has been strong attendance on the part of vendors but we'd like to see more librarians attending. To that end we've decided to move the Roundtable to a mid-day time slot and develop a theme for the meeting at least as a launching point. This year we're going to focus on SERU. Future Chairs should consider this approach if it proves successful this year.

Another new project we've begun was the result of a member communication to CRIV raising the issue of green practices for law libraries and vendors. To that end we have begun compiling information from members and vendors about green practices as a first step in developing best practices for sustainable libraries and publishers.

Work continues on updating the CRIV Tools and will likely continue over the next several years. Rob Myers survey should be the source of future development efforts. Focus should be on exploiting web 2.0 technologies that enable access to information. Much of the content on the existing site is static html and requires a great deal of regular maintenance, which can no longer be sustained.