AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

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

Committee 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 2009-2010:

Vendor Liaison: This is the first year we worked with the AALL Vendor Liaison. Although relations are cordial and respectful, there are some overlapping areas of responsibility and continue to clarify roles. CRIV worked closely with the Vendor Liaison on several key issues: submitting comments to the FTC on the prenotification rule, the roll out of WestlawNext and Lexis for Microsoft Office.

CRIV Structure: CRIV reverted to the traditional committee structure. Unfortunately, there was little committee member support for educational programming. Amy and Rob participated in the planning of several programs with other member groups but none were chosen. This is a subcommittee which needs strong and immediate member support.

Education: Supports AALL’s Strategic Goal of Education. CRIV co-sponsored 5 programs. None were selected. CRIV hosted the 2009 Vendor Relations Roundtable at the 2009 Annual Meeting. Marian Parker introduced herself to our vendor representatives. The Roundtable focused on the licensing of electronic resources. We also discussed the FTC proposed changes to the rule concerning the use of prenotification negative option plans. Because of the support at the Roundtable, CRIV moved forward with submitting comments on the proposed rule. The FTC Project could not have been completed without the assistance of Lucy Rieger, Marian Parker and Mary Alice Baish.

CRIVPage & Tools: One of or goals for the year was to review and update the web page. This did not happen. The task is quite large and we had little committee support for the project.

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

Member Advocacy: This was a very busy year for member advocacy. Issues addressed included out of date publications, poor quality shipping boxes, new products, OnePass, replacement pages and online database pricing.

New Product Award: CRIV continues to administer the New Product Award. The award process for 2009-2010 is not yet completed.

Site Visits: CRIV did not conduct a site visit this year.

Proposed Activities for 2010-2011:

As areas of responsibility between CRIV and the AALL Vendor Liaison are still being delineated, it is somewhat difficult to forecast proposed activities for the next year. Assuming the current structure between CRIV and the AALL Vendor Liaison remain similar to this past year, the following activities will be the focus of CRIV during the 2010-2011 term.

The CRIV website is very dated and there has not been much enthusiasm among Committee members for
AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

updating it as it stands. Many of the core CRIV Tools, have become ubiquitous, redundant or irrelevant given the richness of the web. The plan for this next year is to start the entire site over from scratch and build those tools and link to those materials which are relevant in today's interactive environment. While the Committee will brainstorm on what new tools the site should contain, possible features of the new site include a CRIV blog, a New Product Watch, an interactive vendor complaint reporting form, and a "kudos" form for submitting positive steps vendors have taken and for which they deserve praise.

Another focus for the Committee will be an emphasis on improved communications among Committee members. This does not mean communications have been bad. Actually, they have been excellent—whether through tele-conferencing, e-mail, or the occasional use of a wiki. Rather, the renewed emphasis will focus on finding a communication vehicle that will allow CRIV members to work collaboratively on projects and articles, schedule meetings, and send e-mails—all of which will be recorded and archived by the software.

CRIV will continue coordination of the Vendor Roundtable at the Annual Meeting which the Committee took over from ALL-SIS in 2008. This year the Committee is considering focusing on green practices by publishers as the overriding theme though a few other ideas are also under consideration.

This past year CRIV did not receive an operating budget from AALL. While it appears that CRIV Site Visits are off the table as a component of CRIV's responsibilities, it does not mean that CRIV has no other expenses. A goal for 2010-2011 is to submit a small budget request for operating expenses including but not limited to photocopy expenses, chotksies for the CRIV table at AALL, and other low cost expenses.

CRIV will continue with those activities which have proved successful in the past: Soliciting contributions to and editing the CRIV Sheet, reviewing applications and determining the winner of the New Product Award, staffing the CRIV table at the AALL Annual Meeting, and publicizing the AALL Guide to Fair Business Practices for Legal Publishers.