The Government Relations Committee supports AALL's strategic directions in a number of ways, and has demonstrated that support this year. For example, the committee supports the ongoing education of association members by holding trainings and annual meeting programming, like the annual Public Policy Update.

Committee members participated in monthly conference calls to allow for an in-depth discussion of advocacy on information policy issues, including the development of strategies for networking with each Association chapter and SIS and general planning.

This year, the Government Relations Committee continued to have three subcommittees to focus on major policy issues: Privacy, Access to Information, and Open Government Information. These subcommittees posted in their topical areas to advocacy listserv monthly, to keep members interested in advocacy apprised of the major policy issues and new developments.

Committee members also completed the following:

- Created One-Pagers on several issues and updated existing one-pagers to keep AALL members informed of policy developments and priorities in the new session of Congress.
- Worked with the GRO to gather input from AALL members and then craft a response to GPO's proposed policy allowing the discard of certain tangible documents by regional depository libraries.
- Worked with the GRO to craft a response to the Federal Office of the Courts regarding the removal of documents from the publically accessible PACER system and the restoration of the documents.
- Worked with the GRO on comments submitted regarding a proposed rule change by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register.
- Submitted program proposals for the AALL Annual Meeting on Net Neutrality and Privacy issues.

The GRC will play a part in programs on information policy issues at the upcoming AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in 2015, including:

- The annual Legislative Advocacy Training 2015: AALL amplifies the voices of law librarians on essential information policy issues, including authentication, privacy, copyright, and open government. Participants in this half-day training will learn more about proposed federal and state legislation impacting law libraries and help to develop specific goals and tactics for influencing successful outcomes. As legal information experts and voting constituents, AALL members are in a unique and powerful position to influence the legislation and policies that affect the profession. The training will provide law librarians with practical tips and tools to leverage their influence to advance AALL's policy priorities.
- The annual AALL Public Policy Update: Connecting Members to AALL Advocacy Efforts, an interactive conversation on AALL’s top policy priorities between the chairs of AALL’s three policy committees. At this update, the Committee will award the Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award and the Public Access to Government Information Award.
- Confronting the Future of Information Policy, which will be a discussion among federal stakeholders (Library of Congress, GPO, and NARA's Office of the Federal Register).

Proposed Activities:

- Meet monthly by telephone;
- Continue Outreach to SISs and Chapters;
- Advocate on AALL’s behalf;
- Educate AALL members and the public about information policy issues of concern;
- Monitor information policy by policy area subcommittees;
- Develop expertise to share with the AALL membership regarding specific issue areas.
AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

Work with the GRO to craft responses to policy developments and proposed changes as they happen. Award the PAGI and Oakley Awards; and Develop and submit AALL program proposals, including the Policy Update and the pre-meeting Advocacy Training Day.

Specific Policy Issues in 2015-2016:
Access to Government Information including the following:
Policies that promote government's responsibility to manage the life cycle of online information, Increased access to information on government websites, including federal court information available through PACER and federal court opinions on FDsys Adequate funding for the Government Printing Office, including the Federal Depository Library Program and FDsys; the Library of Congress, including the Law Library of Congress and Copyright Office; the National Archives and Records Administration; and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Increased access to information that is produced by the federal government at taxpayers’ expense, including Congressional Research Service reports. Changes in the Federal Depository Library Program as GPO continues to pursue a National Plan for the Future of the FDLP

A commitment to transparent and open government including the following:
Classification policies that allow the release of as much information as possible while protecting necessary secrets Policies that ensure net neutrality, under which all content, sites, and platforms are treated equally Improvements to the Freedom of Information Act that ensure that openness prevails, regardless of administration, presidential signing statements, or forms of executive privilege

Policies that promote a government protection of privacy including the following:
Reforms to surveillance laws, including the USA PATRIOT Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, that limit the overbroad collection of personal information about members of the public Strong oversight and transparency of government surveillance programs that monitor public communications Updates to laws that protect individuals’ privacy, including the privacy of electronic communications and data

Other Matters:
Encourage participation in yearly in-person GRC Committee meetings through outreach. Advocacy is a core value of the AALL, and member input should be encouraged. Continue to educate AALL members regarding specific public policy issues by writing and updating one-page overviews of current issues; offering advocacy tips to member advocates; and encouraging wider knowledge of and engagement with public policy issues.