During 2014-2015, the Research and Publications Committee administered the AALL research grant programs and the AALL Distinguished Lectureship Award.

The Research and Publications Committee is responsible for administering AALL’s research grant programs. The committee informs AALL 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 2014-2015, the committee received and reviewed eight applications for research grants funded through the AALL Research Fund: An Endowment Established by LexisNexis®. It should be noted that the application forms, for increased efficiency, were converted to editable PDF files this past year. Also of note is that, unlike previous years, the grant was offered twice, in December and in April. Selected for funding were applications: (1) $3,750.00 to Amy Taylor (Emerging Technologies Librarian and Adjunct Professor, American University Washington College of Law) for her project entitled “Internet Sources in U.S. Supreme Court Records and Briefs: A Citation Analysis”; (2) $840.00 to Kristina J. Alayan (Foreign and International Reference Law Librarian and Lecturing fellow) and Jane Bahnson (Reference Librarian and Senior Lecturing fellow), both at Duke University School of Law Library, for their project entitled “An Empirical Study Comparing LLM Comprehension Following Live and Recorded Lectures”; (3) $700.00 to Stacy Etheredge (Reference and Instruction Librarian, West Virginia University College of Law Library) for her project entitled “The Impact of the Lewis v. Casey ‘Actual Injury’ Requirement on Litigation Involving Prison and Jail Law Libraries” and (4) $1,500.00 to Susan David deMaine and Benjamin J. Keele (Research and Instruction Librarians, Indiana University School of Law Library) for their project entitled “Access to the Justices? An Analysis on Restrictions to the Papers of the Supreme Court Justices.”

It should be noted that the funds for the AALL / Wolters Kluwer Law and Business Research Grant were exhausted after funding for two applications was awarded during 2013-2014, resulting in the Grants being discontinued.

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, and philosophy of law librarianship, who share their knowledge and expertise with other members in a lecture given at the annual meeting. The committee received one nomination and unanimously selected the nominee to deliver the Distinguished Lecture. Unfortunately, after careful consideration, the individual declined to accept the nomination, due to time constraints and prior commitments. Thus, unhappily, we did not have anyone deliver the Distinguished Lecture at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

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 inclusion in the series: a monograph edited by Michelle Wu
entitled “Academic Law Library Director Perspectives.” The committee voted enthusiastically to include the monograph in the AALL publication series.

Finally, as outlined in the Committee Review Task Force, Final Report, AALL structure changes will take effect in 2015-2016, as a result of several standing committees being subject to review. As it was determined that the Research and Publications Committee has not much work to do beyond administering the LexisNexis Grant and the AALL Distinguished Lectureship, it was recommended that the committee be sunsettled, and that the advertising, solicitation, and administration of the Lectureship and Grants be designated to separate and annually appointed juries.

The members of the 2014-2015 AALL Research and Publications Committee were: Joseph Molinari, Chair; Joanne Dugan, Vice Chair; Douglas Cox; Lucy Curci-Gonzalez; Judy K. Davis; Ryan Harrington; Kathleen Jo Klepfer; Sibyl Marshall; David McClure; Michael G. Moore, and Heather Braithwaite Simmons.

Submitted by,

Joseph Molinari
Chair, 2014-2015