

OPAI funding targets announced

A list of the projects which received funding under the Online Public Access Initiative (OPAI) was released on 13 June by Senator Richard Alston, Minister for Communications and the Arts. The OPAI was announced in the 1996-97 Federal Budget, and set aside \$2.2 million for the development of community access to on-line services. The final selection of successful projects was made with the input of an advisory panel which included the ALIA executive director. A number of public library services will receive funding under the initiative and ALIA has been granted funding to help provide on-line access to five remote Aboriginal communities.

Further details and a complete list of the successful projects can be found at the Department of Communications and the Arts web page at <http://www.dca.gov.au/opai.html>

Public libraries meeting

The Public Libraries Section (national group) met via teleconference on 19 May to discuss a range of issues, including those arising from the release of *2020 Vision*, the final report of the Libraries Working Group of the Cultural Ministers' council.

The national group seeks to take up the challenge provided by the report for developing a public library system which

is relevant to the needs of Australians into the 21st Century. The report and other strategic issues for public libraries will be the focus of a session to be held at the PubRAISS Conference in November.

The meeting also discussed a variety of other issues which are currently affecting library services, including those arising from the 1997 Federal Budget. The next meeting of the National Group will be in September and will further discuss a strategic plan for public libraries and other issues relating to the conference. Copies of *2020 Vision* can be obtained from Ivan Catlin at the State Library of Queensland. ■

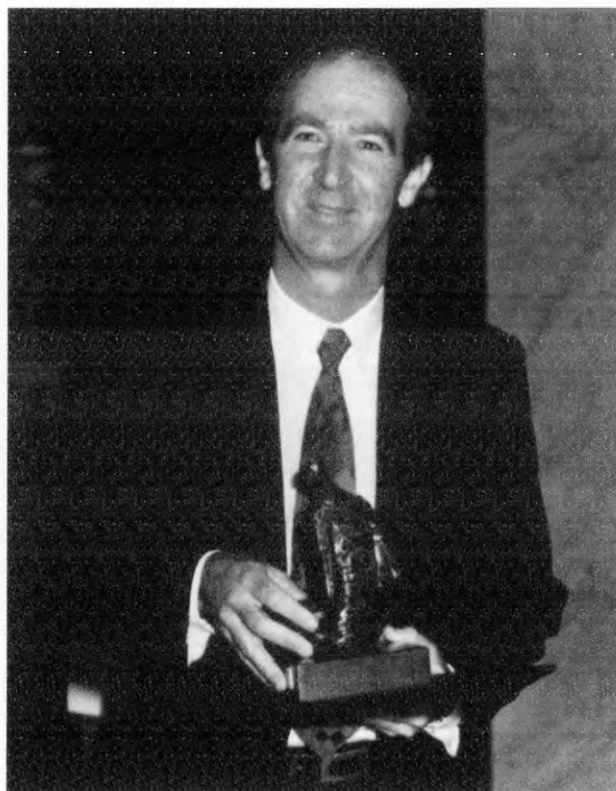
Congratulations, Eric

At a ceremony held in the foyer of the National Library of Australia on 29 May 1997, Eric Wainwright was presented with the Association's top honour, the HCL Anderson Award in recognition for his outstanding contribution to librarianship in Australia.

The citation was read by Derek Fielding, former Pro-vice-chancellor, Academic Services, at the University of Queensland and the award was presented by ALIA president, Kerry Smith.

The citation reads in part 'Few members can match the contribution Eric has made to the Association over nearly three decades. This has included his distinguished term as a member of the Board of Education for nine years from 1983, and as Chairman of the Board from 1988 to 1989. He has a great interest in the issue of education for librarianship, where his strong views have often challenged the profession. He has continually sought improvement to the educational framework in order that it might better cope with the increasing complexity of library and information service delivery, and was a pioneer in advocating for effective and broad ranging staff development policies in Australian libraries. He has also given much service to the Australian Council of Library and Information Services (ACLIS) and its predecessors, including the development of the AACOBS national research agenda in the 1980s.'

The full text of the citation can be found at <http://www.alia.org.au/awards/anderson/citations/wainwright.html> ■



Eric Wainwright and his award

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