Outstanding contribution recognised

At the recent 11th conference and exhibition of the Victorian Association for Library Automation, the winner of the Robert D. Williamson Award for 2002, Hans Groenewegen, was formally presented with his framed commemorative certificate. The Award was given to Hans 'for outstanding contribution to the development of information technology usage in Australian libraries' and 'for demonstrated potential to positively and significantly influence development in information technology usage within libraries'.

Recently formally retired from his position as deputy university librarian at Monash University, Hans has practised as a librarian in Victoria, in New South Wales and in Europe. He has worked for the Public Library of New South Wales, the Australian Atomic Energy Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, CAVAL, and Monash University. He has been a library assistant, a systems analyst, and a library manager.

His library automation experience started with databases and database systems, grew with the development and use of a variety of information systems, and most recently leapt forward into the realms of electronic publishing and virtual libraries. A number of the systems he has developed, worked with and nurtured, have been co-operative systems. One of the first was a co-operative system for the storage and dissemination of information for a special library — perhaps one of the earliest database systems in the library world.

A decade later, at CAVAL, he oversaw the implementation of a regional Union Catalogue, COOL-CAT, managed a co-operative automated cataloguing system and a library network. Even as a library assistant in the early 1970s he was closely involved in the development of new information processing techniques, such as optical character recognition, computerised photocomposition, and online real-time information retrieval systems. At the time, these were all revolutionary developments.

For the past decade, he has played a leading role in managing the transition of Monash University library from a purely print-based institution to one which has become increasingly digital. These developments have included the first CD-ROM network for the University, the University's Campus Wide Information System (the predecessor of the Web), electronic publishing, a pilot e-reserve project, and a Digitisation Centre.

In addition, he has become an expert on the economic, legal and copyright issues of e-publishing, as well as the issues relating to preservation and conservation.

He has published extensively, presented a wide variety of papers and served on the VALA committee for a number of years, including a term as president. He has taught an online course in information management and systems, and is still teaching.

This award publicly acknowledges the outstanding contribution he has made to the development of information technology usage in Australian libraries, to his significant influence on the development of information services and his services to the profession. The fact that he was at the VALA conference is testament to the fact that although he has retired he will continue to make a contribution.

First presented in 1981, the Robert D. Williamson Award was established in the memory of Robert D. Williamson, who was a pioneer in the development of information science and library automation in Australia. Recent recipients include Warwick Cathro, Kim Jelbart, Geoff Huston, Peter Stansfield, Informit, Geoffrey Payne and Derek Whitehead. Previously made by a small group of individuals within the information science industry, the Award was adopted by VALA in 1991 and recipients have been selected by the VALA Committee. Other awards made by VALA are the VALA Travel Scholarships and the VALA Award, given to libraries and other institutions that have demonstrated innovative use of information technology. ∎

Australia Dancing — making dance more accessible

The National Library of Australia and Ausdance, the peak industry body for dance in Australia, proudly announce their joint involvement in an exciting initiative — Australia Dancing — funded by the Australia Council.

The National Library of Australia is at the forefront of initiatives to collect Australian dance materials and has significant collections of dance-related oral histories, photographs, posters, programs and personal papers.

Australia Dancing will open up these resources, and those of other key collecting institutions, through a major redevelopment of the electronic directory to the Australian Dance Collection available at http://www. nla.gov.au/ausdance/.

Chief beneficiaries of the project will be a cross section of the arts community from researchers, teachers and students to practising dancers, choreographers and directors.

'The Australian Dance Collection site is already widely used by people wanting to find out more about dance in Australia. Australia Dancing will expand the scope and coverage of the current directory and make a wealth of materials even more accessible to the national and international arts community,' said Dr Michelle Potter, the National Library's Curator of Dance.

Additions to the directory are made regularly. Each major entry has two components: a brief biography/historical note and a descriptive list of individual items for that entry.

Dr Michelle Potter is responsible for the day-to-day running of Australia Dancing. She commenced work in January 2002 and brings wide experience as a dance historian, writer, researcher and curator to the position. She is also the co-producer of the award winning video *Boro's Ballet* and author of the National Library publication *A Passion for Dance*. ∎