

# OLAQ

OLA Quarterly

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Volume 2  
Number 3  
*The Inner Workings of the Association (Fall  
1996)*

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July 2014

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*Lake Oswego Public Library*

### Recommended Citation

Peake, C. (2014). Kappy Eaton's career puts OLA goals in perspective. *OLA Quarterly*, 2(3), 5+. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7710/1093-7374.1417>

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*OLA Quarterly* is an official publication of the Oregon Library Association | ISSN 1093-7374

# Kappy Eaton's Career Puts OLA Goals in Perspective

by Carolyn Peake  
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**K**atherine G. Eaton, or Kappy as she is known by friends and associates, has recently completed one of the many significant projects of her life. She has edited her last *PNLA Quarterly*. She has been the editor for nearly twelve years, and it is nearly impossible to think of that publication without thinking of Kappy at the same time.

In the late sixties and all through the seventies it was virtually impossible to think of library legislation and development in the state of Oregon without thinking of Kappy. During the eighties the same could be said of her intense involvement with ACRL, the League of Women Voters, and the American Association of University Women.

More recently she has been involved in the fight for better lives for women from the wide perspective of the NGO Women's Forum and the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women (August 30 to September 15, 1995, in China) to the local perspective here in Oregon. Kappy says the issues are the same: poverty, education, and human rights.

No doubt about it—Kappy is an activist. She has spent years fighting hard for the things in which she believes.

She became a library activist in the mid-sixties when she, as part of a group of concerned mothers, organized to keep elementary school libraries open in the Eugene School District from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. After that she went to library school at the University of Oregon and, armed with her MLS degree, she became a consultant at the State Library with an office at the University of Oregon. A key part of that job was to work with the OLA Library Development Committee to create a statewide library development plan that would use LSCA dollars. This was the beginning of the serious push by OLA to put LSCA money to work in local libraries rather than have it continue being used to fund the operations of the Oregon State Library.

When the Bureau of Governmental Research Library became a branch of the University of Oregon Library, Dr. Carl Hintz asked Kappy to head it. Her educational background, which included journalism, political science and law, made her uniquely qualified to do so. This was a position she held until retiring from the university in 1985. One of the high points of her career at the university was being president of the faculty senate the same year her son David was president of the student body.

Kappy's first official position with OLA was as editor of *Oregon Library News*, a job she performed for

about four years. She was elected OLA vice-president/president-elect in 1972 and served as president in 1973-74. She was chair of the Legislative Committee for many years, working closely with Mary Bates. The first per-capita bill for state aid for libraries was introduced in 1973. During the next few years the Legislative Network was organized and Nan Heim was hired as OLA's lobbyist.

Finally, in 1977, on the third try, a modest per capita bill was passed. During this same time, the state statutes pertaining to libraries were rewritten to recognize public libraries as a part of the state's educational structure. The mid-seventies also brought attempts to pass obscenity legislation, and OLA began to broaden resource sharing and technical development issues. Technology began to be explored on a state-wide basis in the early eighties.

Kappy Eaton has achieved many personal accomplishments in a career spanning thirty years, including national positions with ALA, ACRL, AAUW, League of Women Voters, and the National Council of Planning Librarians. She has seen the increase in intellectual freedom challenges become a major issue. Kappy is concerned with the degree of organization and structure among those who wish to control the access to information. Positive change has occurred in the area of new technology, which has enabled resource sharing and operational changes in libraries to take place. Kappy has also

See Kappy page 19

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the goal of increasing understanding of current social problems and issues

- To act as a stimulus to the association and its various units in making libraries more responsive to current social needs
- To present programs, arrange exhibits, and carry out other appropriate activities consistent with its other goals

Jos Anemaet of Oregon State University's Valley Library is chair of SRRT.

#### *Technical Services Round Table (TSRT)*

TSRT's general objective is to provide a framework for information sharing, continuing education, and moral support for library workers currently engaged in technical services activities. Specifically, the group has three aims:

- To provide for the exchange of ideas on technical services and automation processes, systems, and policies
- To provide a medium for the exploration of new ideas and technologies
- To foster cooperation among all Oregon libraries in the areas of technical services and automation and to increase an awareness in the library community of the roles of technical and automation services.

TSRT is chaired by Cherie Rusk, Information Services Department, at Oregon State University's Valley Library. ☐

## The Year Ahead

*(continued from page 2)*

and committees cover areas and interests throughout the library landscape, whether it be reference, support staff, outreach, public relations, or technical services. After goals and objectives are set and work is done, the resulting benefits extend to all. Having input and assistance from a larger and a more diverse membership can only help make the organization stronger and more successful.

While achieving all the goals set forth above will not be easy, it will be rewarding to know that we gave it our best shot. If we receive a few whacks on the side of the head during the course of the year, we'll just shrug them off. What the hell, we'll just call them "knowledge bumps!" ☐

## Past Year

*(continued from page 3)*

tors, and vendors. This past year, OLA tried another experiment with the annual conference. The annual event was planned to take advantage of the Public Library Association's decision to meet in Portland at the same time as OLA. Rather than reschedule OLA, the Executive Board encouraged the Conference Committee to use its creative energy to organize a completely different conference. The planning was complicated, and there was plenty of uncharted territory to explore. The board was prepared for a "non-profit" year because of uncertainties regarding costs and attendance. But the OLA Conference turned out to be a bigger success than anyone had anticipated. Under the leadership of Kit Dusky, the committee emerged triumphant. The lessons learned from this experiment will help OLA deal with future planning challenges and unexpected scheduling problems.

OLA is an exceptionally strong organization with a long history of success. This past year we were able to add to that list of accomplishments through good planning, creative initiative, hard work, and dedication to the principles behind library service. Being OLA president may not be at the top of everyone's to-do list, but I urge our members to consider the possibility in a new light. It is a chance to associate with a winning team of people, to take on important challenges that affect libraries throughout the state, and to learn a great deal from informed colleagues. The benefits outweigh any costs. ☐

## Kappy

*(continued from page 5)*

seen continuing education and training opportunities become increasingly available.

Kappy Eaton's professional life is an example of the difference one committed individual can make to any endeavor in which she believes. It is as good an answer as any to the OLA member who questions the value of getting involved. ☐