

Databases Prove Useful for Bonner Springs



Bonner Springs USD 204

**Serves: 2,000+ students
300+ educators**

**Member Since:
September 18, 2002**

The Bonner Springs USD 204, in northeast Kansas, has been taking advantage of the Kan-ed Educational and Research Databases since 2002. The Kan-ed databases are comprised of Thomson Gale Literature Resource Center, ProQuest Nursing Journals, WorldBook Online, HeritageQuest, and other reliable sources of information. Debbi Maddy, the Library Media Specialist for Bonner Springs High School, commented, “The databases are an essential part of teaching our students the ethical use of information and how to validate information.” She described that students can very easily access information through the Internet in this information rich society. However, the information obtained through Internet websites is not always accurate. Students need to learn that they cannot assume the information is correct and use it in their assignments. The Kan-ed databases offer a great alternative to Internet searching. Maddy continued, “Databases are a necessary tool as we prepare students for post-secondary education and training.”

Maddy described another benefit of the online databases being that they are consistently updated to provide current information. Many schools have to use text resources such as books and magazines; however, they very quickly become outdated and are no longer accurate sources of information, so they need to be replaced frequently. This becomes a bigger problem because such text resources are typically very expensive. Maddy described, “The price of reference books and magazines is out of reach for many schools in Kansas. Budgets to provide print reference materials are just not available in many districts.” The Kan-ed databases solve these problems.

A range of people at USD 204 are using the databases. “All of our students at the high school are impacted by Kan-ed services,” said Maddy, “Before Kan-ed, we struggled to purchase databases.” The students use them for research and to access content information to complete their assignments and projects on a daily basis. Maddy described, “We have students who are enrolled in Kansas City Kansas Community College, and the instructors come to our school to teach the classes during the school day. These students use our databases to complete their assignments.” Use of the databases is not limited to the students; even teachers have found them useful. Maddy shared, “I also have teachers working on masters degrees, and in some cases their PhDs, using our Kan-ed databases.”

Maddy described the necessity of Kan-ed services by stating, “Schools in Kansas are in a financial bind.” Kan-ed offers resources Kansas school districts may have difficulty providing entirely on their own.

Kan-ed

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