

**Kan-ed—Where Kansans  
Access the Information Age.**



Students at Chautauqua County USD 286, in southeast Kansas, have benefited in many ways from having access to the Kan-ed Educational and Research databases. Sharon Koontz, Librarian, stated that she “couldn’t do without” the databases. Teachers and students in USD 286 access the databases through both the Empowered Desktop and the Kansas Library Card. A huge benefit of the electronic format is the ease of accessibility. For example, multiple students can access the resources at the same time because there is no need to check them out of the library. Koontz remarked, “They can go back to the classroom and use the resource online, or they can go home and get online. It makes more resources available for everyone.” The databases also help get the school out of a pinch when teachers do not request book purchases ahead of time. “I have to buy my books before June and sometimes teachers will come to me in August to make requests. Using these Kan-ed databases works real well when I don’t have something that covers a particular subject.”

Koontz provides database training to both students and teachers. She explains, “With the teachers, we have tried to take one in-service that is just technology focused, and we have six to ten little workshops, or break-out sessions that teachers can choose from. I’ve always done a session related to the databases at that in-service. With the students, we work database training into their library orientation when they are freshman, and we do a smaller one with seventh graders.”

## Librarian “Couldn’t Do Without” the Kan-ed Databases

**Chataugua County  
USD 286**  
Serves: 350+ students,  
45+ educators  
Kan-ed member since:  
October 23, 2002



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Sally Kennedy, High School English teacher at Chautauqua County, also noted the value of the databases in making more information available to students. She shared, “My students use the Kan-ed databases daily. When the students are doing research, this is the only place I allow them to search. I steer them to the Ebsco database because it seems to be 10th grade friendly. I feel this is a good, safe way for the students to find resources that our library doesn't have. They will always go to the computer before they pick up a book!”

Koontz also revealed, “Access to the databases has kept us from spending more money. That’s really probably the biggest impact, the money it’s saved when we’re getting budgets slashed every which way.” Without the Kan-ed databases, “It would mean that the students don’t have as many resources available to them, because we couldn’t afford it. I wouldn’t be able to increase my magazine subscriptions. I’d have to go with online stuff that I couldn’t guarantee the validity of as much. We’d just have to do without. To me, this is something that’s more important as time goes by because kids just need to understand what is real and what is made up and what is just an opinion versus what’s somebody’s sales pitch. That’s hard to distinguish without training on the Internet.”