

## Kan-ed--Where Kansans Access the Information Age

# DATABASES IMPACT ARRAY OF PEOPLE

Although the Conway Springs City Library in south central Kansas is only able to provide one computer with Kan-ed database access, they find that the computer is used regularly, especially for the World Book and HeritageQuest databases. Danna Fulkerson, Library Director, provided several examples of how community members are using the Kan-ed databases.

One patron uses HeritageQuest extensively as an essential tool for her job conducting genealogy research; she previously drove 47 miles to Wichita to conduct her research. Fulkerson continued, "A lot of people are interested in genealogy. We've lost the generation that knew the family history. The 3<sup>rd</sup> generation wants to know where they came from, and they want to do it on their own. HeritageQuest provides a good starting point to get that information."

The databases also are often accessed by students after school hours to look for additional information for reports. Fulkerson commented, "They like to come down to the library because they know we have access, which is especially important if they do not have computers at home. The school's computers are usually tied up so having a computer available after school hours has been a good draw."



Fulkerson acknowledged the potential for obtaining up-to-date medical information through the databases. She shared, "The Nursing Journal would be helpful for people who have been given a diagnosis and need to know more about it. We have a local family that had a Down Syndrome baby. I ordered a lot of books interlibrary loan for them. If I had known about the nursing journal, the mother could have gone online to get a lot of information. She was distraught, thinking, 'What do I do, where I go for information?' I was able to get a lot of books, but the databases would have had more current information. Some of the interlibrary loan books were from the 1970s."

Fulkerson continued, "I just hope Kan-ed continues to sponsor the databases because they are the future. People want information, and they don't want to have to search forever. Librarians in a lot of places don't have somebody that can walk people through the research process. But if there is an icon on the computer, patrons are used to that kind of quick information. They don't have to wait until the books come in and read through them. They can go onto the databases and click on what they want, be able to print it off, and take it home and read it. Then, they can follow-up if they need a book. It narrows down their search." Fulkerson is hoping for continued Kan-ed funding. She summarized, "When they talked about it not being funded again, I was just sick. I thought, 'I'm just now learning all this stuff, and you're going to take it away from me?' We can't afford to pay for these databases. Especially now with the economy the way it is. The legislators need to know that the databases are necessary for us small libraries that do not have the money, we are struggling to stay open, let alone be able to be a service to people."

**Conway Springs City Library**  
Serves: 1,200+ patrons  
Kan-ed member since:  
October 14, 2003

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