

## Heritage Quest Very Popular as Passion for Genealogy Climbs

Cathleen Fish, Library Director at Hillsboro Public Library in north central Kansas, shared that her patrons are increasingly interested in genealogy. HeritageQuest, a Kan-ed sponsored genealogy database accessed through the Kansas Library Card, is playing a central role in their new passion. Whereas ancestry.com requires users to pay for information, HeritageQuest, as a result of Kan-ed sponsorship, allows Kansans to access genealogy information for free. Many people are unwilling or unable to pay for the information, so without HeritageQuest they would be without a genealogy resource. Fish remarked on patrons' excitement over this database, "HeritageQuest, I know, is a database that is used quite a lot. Patrons are just thrilled to find their ancestors from way back. A patron once mentioned that it's neat to see the handwriting and things like that on the census record. They get excited if they can fill that gap in their family tree." She continued, "A lot of them have a real sparkle in their eye because they are thinking 'This was my ancestor's handwriting'." After a local college offered a basic genealogy class, Fish noticed an increase in new patrons interested in obtaining a state library card so they could search the HeritageQuest database from home.

Beyond HeritageQuest, the library frequently gets students who come in to use other Kan-ed sponsored research databases for homework projects. Fish mentioned they use WorldCat, Kid Search (Ebsco), and World Book. "I think that the databases are very user friendly," she shared. The databases also help a lot in terms of the library budget. Just having the databases available relieves the necessity of buying as many non-fiction books, including encyclopedias.

Fish expressed, "We wouldn't be able to afford the databases on our own and that would really be a problem for us. Patrons would be disappointed if we didn't have access." Based on the library's location, patrons would have to travel a considerable distance to obtain access to this information at other libraries. Fish shared that she is "thrilled to have these databases available. I hope we continue to have access to them."

**Hillsboro Public Library**  
Serves: 2,600+ patrons  
Kan-ed member since:  
September 16, 2002

Phone: 785-296-0843  
Email: [kan-ed@ksbor.org](mailto:kan-ed@ksbor.org)  
<http://www.kan-ed.org>

