

# Rural Library Transformed by Kan-ed Databases

What has been the impact of the Kan-ed Educational and Research Databases on Jay Johnson Public Library in northwest Kansas? Sharon DuBois, Library Director, shared that “We would not be the same without it. It has transformed the rural library.”

DuBois further explained this transformation, stating, “With the databases, we’re a real library. And before, there was no way that a little town of less than 900 residents could afford reference books. There was just no way.” DuBois explained that there are challenges in figuring out how to keep many of the magazine subscriptions, and there is no way that they could afford the nursing journals and other Kan-ed sponsored databases. “Access to the funded databases makes us a real library and not just a reading room.”

Patrons at Jay Johnson Public Library have been making the most of access to the ProQuest Nursing Journals. For example, sometimes patrons come in and want to find a book with information about a rare disease. With the library’s limited budget, it is very unlikely they will have such a book. However, the library staff can help patrons obtain this information through the ProQuest Nursing Journals. This information is up-to-date, reliable, and easily printed so they can take the information with them to study at home, which patrons really appreciate. DuBois remarked that they get hospital patients in quite often because of the library’s proximity to the hospital. “The medical database is the one that probably impacts our patrons the most dramatically,” she said.



Gale databases are also frequently used at the library. For example, Chilton’s, a car repair manual, is popular. DuBois stated, “We are finding more and more people coming in wanting help with the Chilton’s. That has been a huge help for our patrons and for us, and freed up a lot of shelf space for us. That has been a really great database.” She remarked that it is nice to see patrons so happy when they figure out how to fix their car.

Thinking about the benefits of receiving the Kan-ed databases, she remarked, “It makes a more level playing field for all the citizens of Kansas. It seems to me this is the way our government can help.”

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

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**Jay Johnson Public Library**  
Serves: 800+ patrons  
Kan-ed member since:  
May 15, 2003

**Kan-ed**