

# Librarian Amping Up for More Database Use

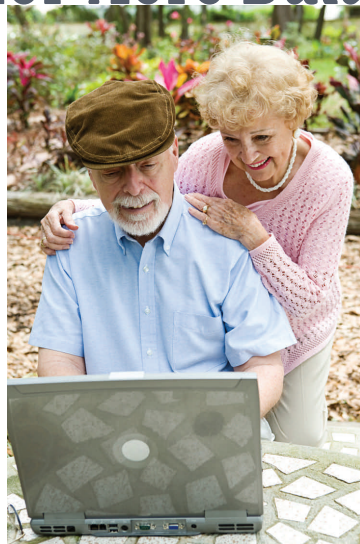
Carla Feigal, Librarian at Jewell Public Library, recently attended training to become better equipped at helping patrons use the Kan-ed Educational and Research Databases and to assist the library in earning grant funds. The training workshop was offered by the Central Kansas Library System (CKLS). To follow-up on the training, CKLS sends a weekly quiz question over email to allow the library to earn part of its grant funds. Feigal described, "They send us a question to look up on one of the databases. Then we get credit for it. After we get 10 correct answers, we get \$50 toward our system grant." She further explained that they receive some of the system grant for nothing, "but we have to earn part of it with continuing education projects. The quizzes using the databases are one of the projects where we can get \$50 of the grant."

Feigal expressed excitement over her new ability to share knowledge of the databases with others. "As we figure out how to use the databases, we'll be sharing the information with others. We'll be in better shape to help people with them now." She noted numerous patrons' excitement in using HeritageQuest for genealogy searches when they find a family member. She described being able to look up information about books and determining when the next book in a series will become available. She also mentioned helping patrons by accessing Chilton's automotive repair manual, which describes how to fix parts on cars. Without the databases, the library would only have access to Google to search for information.

Feigal commented, "We really think it's important that the state continue to fund the databases, because they help our library provide a lot more information for our patrons."



**Jewell Public Library**  
Serves: 400+ patrons  
Kan-ed member since:  
December 30, 2002



Sharon Tullar, Board Member at Jewell Public Library, also attended the CKLS training out of a personal interest. She accesses HeritageQuest for genealogy searching and the Custom Newspapers for current events. The training and the databases in general have impacted her because "It has helped me to find things that I didn't know how to find before on the computer. I've found that there's more information out there. I've always been told that, but I didn't know how to go about looking it up." She shared a specific story related to her use of HeritageQuest. "My dad always told a story that his dad had some half brothers and sisters. I have never been able to prove that after years of hunting. I went into HeritageQuest under the Census Record and I was able to find my great-grandfather and his half sister and brother plus some stepbrothers and sisters. I felt that was quite a find!" She has mentioned HeritageQuest to friends and family and has heard that some of them are now utilizing it for their own genealogy searches.

Tullar concluded, "The libraries do need these databases. They do help other people if we can just get the word out that they are here and available."

**Kan-ed**

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