



Kan-ed Educational and Research Databases Make an Impact in Electronic World

In talking about the Kan-ed Educational and Research Databases, Kim Priest, Director of the Mary Cotton Public Library in Sabetha, Kansas said, “when people are looking for something, the databases are the first thing I always mention.”

Priest continued “People are more plugged into the databases than they used to be. They help give us a point to start when someone is doing research on a specific topic. They can then expand from what they find there.” She mentioned that local K-12 students use the databases for research and college students come in during the holidays to use them. Community members are also accessing the databases. She expanded on this by saying, “One of our chiropractors in town was doing a wellness article for the paper and he accessed the



HeritageQuest:

The largest genealogy data provider in the United States and a leading purveyor of data, including topics such as census, books, and the Revolutionary War.



databases for information several times. We also have lots and lots of people that do genealogy and really like the HeritageQuest database because they have free access, whereas with Ancestry.com you have to pay a subscription. HeritageQuest really gives them a starting point.” Other community members come in to locate medical information, for example if a family member has been diagnosed with cancer.”

Priest said that without Kan-ed funding of the databases “We probably would not be able to afford any of them. We truly appreciate the fact that Kan-ed is providing these, and that the State Library provides some. A library our size would probably not have even one-tenth of what is there.” Loss of database access would also increase other costs for the library, including postal costs for interlibrary loan and costs for additional books. “Because the World Book is on-line, it makes the information more current. It isn’t quite the stress on our budget to keep a current version of the books. It has become a very electronic world. People have come to expect that kind of information at their fingertips. I think it would impact people quite a bit if we were to lose access.”

Priest shared concerns about potential loss of funding for the databases. “I know the State Legislature is contemplating cuts but I really hope that they can see fit to preserve education and library funding because there is really no way to measure the impact it would have if we lose those kinds of things. People come into the library every day and you never know when you are going to have somebody that is really going to be impacted if the information isn’t available.”

**Mary Cotton
Public Library**
Serves: 2,500+ patrons
Kan-ed member since:
September 19, 2002

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