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Kan-ed—Where Kansans  
Access the Information Age.

**Olathe Public Library**  
**Serves:**  
**118,000+ patrons**  
**Kan-ed member since:**  
**September 11, 2002**

# Closing the Digital Divide

Olathe Public Library staff members Mary Linse, Supervisor of Support Services, and Sara Eccles, Library Specialist, had plenty of good things to say about the electronic databases provided by Kan-ed. "I think part of it is that the collective buying has allowed us to get a lot more databases than we would otherwise be able to afford," says Linse.

The databases "give people more opportunities to use different resources for their projects," said Eccles. Linse adds, "It is a part of closing the digital divide. A lot of people that we have in here don't have Internet at home and don't have use of these resources otherwise...without the library."

The genealogy databases are also used at Olathe Public Library to research family history. Students frequent the library to use the other Kan-ed sponsored databases, such as WorldBook and the Literature Resource Center, for school papers and projects. "We have students that get on and use Homework Kansas," Eccles explains, as another resource to help with their school work.

The Olathe Public Library conducts sessions two times a month with teenagers on how to use the databases. These are well received because the students see the value of the resources available and the assistance it provides to their school projects.

Eccles sums it up by stating that, "because of the Kan-ed databases, we are able to offer more for our patrons. It helps our database dollar go farther. We can offer a wide variety of things to meet all kinds of patron needs here in our library."

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## *Olathe Public Library's Vision:*

*"To meet the lifelong informational, educational and recreational needs of the community through the quality services and resources."*

