

2011 Legislative Priorities

Restore state funding to local libraries.

Every community library has been impacted by the \$638,134 reduction in State Grants In Aid. This is the cumulative effect of reductions beginning in FY 2009 in the state's contribution to Kansas libraries.

Local libraries depend on state funding to deliver services including:

- early childhood literacy programs
- job-related education and training
- access to e-government
- availability of public Internet workstations

Maintain Kansas Universal Service Fund Support for Kan-Ed.

This critical funding continues to underwrite Internet connectivity for libraries. Local libraries offer expansive Internet services ranging from educational databases to online homework resources to ebooks. The 2010 Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study finds that 64 percent of Kansas libraries report they are the only provider of free public access to computers and the Internet in their communities. 78% of Kansas libraries experienced increased use of public computers and Wi-Fi last year.

Local libraries are in demand!

In one day, Kansas libraries*:

- welcomed 47,838 people
- loaned 62,037 items
- answered 6,249 reference questions
- helped 11,639 people with computer access
- offered 285 programs to 5,974 people

**Data gathered in April 2010.*



Kansas Library Association

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Libraries Grow Communities

Libraries Strengthen Quality of Life

Public libraries are logical partners for local economic development initiatives that focus on people and quality of life by providing a broad range of information services to diverse constituencies. By using the library's statewide databases, patrons can research genealogy, find auto repair instructions, access consumer report information and investigate new business ventures. Specific databases include Chilton's Auto Repair, Heritage Quest, Consumer Reports, and the Business and Community Resource Center.

Libraries Strengthen Communities

- Early childhood literacy programs contribute to long-term economic success. There is strong and growing evidence that investments in early literacy yield a high return, and impact a community's economic future.
- Libraries provide online and print resources to support businesses, and workforce training such as computer skill classes.
- Communities access current health and medical information through the Internet and statewide databases such as Kansas Health Online.

Libraries Strengthen Education

- Homework Kansas – online tutoring for K-12 in math, science, English and social studies.
- LearningExpress Library – elementary through college level assistance by subject and class. Learning Express also delivers Microsoft computer skill classes, GED study guides and civil service practice tests.
- Job Search-aids with resume writing, new career paths and educational opportunities.
- InfoTrac Student Center – a periodical database for middle and high school students. (Many schools have eliminated magazine and newspaper subscriptions.)
- History Resource Center – indexes full-text articles, primary sources, magazines, maps and charts.

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