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Check Out the Internet at the Library

A pilot project administered by the State Library of Kansas is allowing 19 Kansas libraries to lend portable Wi-Fi Hotspot devices to patrons wishing to expand the library's Internet access.

"Many Kansas residents rely on library Internet for job searching, homework help, and e-government so when the doors close, so does their connection," said State Librarian Jo Budler. "Too many Kansas households do not have Internet access and this pilot project has the potential to provide 24/7 quality access to those limited to the library's operating hours."

Patrons can check out Wi-Fi Hotspot devices, with unlimited data usage, now through 2015 by visiting participating libraries. Borrowers must be 18 to check out the device and are required to fill out a customer survey to help the State Library determine possibilities of expanding the program to more libraries.

Both the device and monthly service fees are funded by a grant from the Knight Foundation, through New York Public Library.