



Childers Counseling Service

Located on the Country Club Plaza

Kansas City, MO 64112

Web: www.ChildersCounselingService.com

Phone: 816-892-0803

E-mail: Martha@ChildersCounselingService.com

LIBRARY SERVICES FOR SENIORS

Please keep the library in mind as you seek information, entertainment, and community.

Martha Childers

Johnson County Library has a wealth of services and information especially for seniors, including a variety of materials in different formats, such as large print books, audio books, music CDs, downloadable audio books, and documentaries on DVD, magazines, newspapers, large print book-club-to-go kits, and online databases providing 25,000 periodicals. Librarians are available to answer any question you might have. We want you to feel comfortable contacting us. You can come in, call 913-826-4600, or e-mail jclref@jocolibrary.org.

Volunteering. Volunteering is one of the best ways to provide meaning through serving others. The library itself is a wonderful place to do this. Serving as a page shelving books provides light weight training! Check the library's web site for an online application. For other opportunities in the area, check out the volunteer section under the library's Career Page: jocolibrary.org/careers. Library staff can help you identify volunteer opportunities. As an aside, volunteering is a great way to get your foot in the door for job opportunities.

Careers. Many seniors would like to supplement their income with a job. The library has handouts and resources for seniors at the Central Resource Library. *Call on the library!* for thorough career information for seniors. The most information will be provided at our career tours held twice a month. Attend the specialized programs, such as interviewing, resume writing, and networking. Check out the career page jocolibrary.org/careers for more information.

Businesses. The Central Resource Library has a business team to help small business owners. The business website: provides information on events, research topics, databases, the business book clubs, and getting started. Staff is available to assist at the library.

Homebound Services. Home Connect is a free service offered to anyone living within the Johnson County Library service area that is unable to get to his or her neighborhood library because of illness, disability, visual impairment or lack of transportation. Through Home Connect, materials will be delivered with return postage through the mail. To find the online Home Connect application form, visit the Johnson County Library Home Connect Web page: jocolibrary.org/homeconnect.

Computer skills. In-depth tutorials are available through LearningExpressLibrary, a database that you can access through the library's website either at the library or, with a library card and pin number, at home. Ask a staff member for a list of computer classes in the area. When using a library computer, staff can help seniors get started. Check out these sites for help: seniornet.org/ and teachparentstech.org/.

Tax help. AARP volunteers will be available at the Central Resource Library. Please check the library's tax webpage: jocolibrary.org/taxes in January 2012 for more details. Some federal tax forms will be available at the Central Resource Library. Additionally, the library has a wide range of books, CD's, videos and other materials on the topic of taxes.

Citizenship. A wide range of information on citizenship can be found on the Federal Government Gateway at usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Voting.shtml. Check out candidates' voting records on [Project Vote Smart votesmart.org/](http://ProjectVoteSmart.org). Find information on their donors and financial activities look at Opensecrets.org opensecrets.org/. Johnson County Election Office has a good website: jocoelection.org/.

Government Publications. Local, state, and federal government publications are available to assist seniors. Some free publications are available to pick up at the library. Most are available online. Kansas.gov, kansas.gov/ and USA.gov usa.gov/ are the portals into state and federal information. A specialized page for seniors can be found at usa.gov/Topics/Seniors.shtml. Check out different parts of Johnson County Government jocogov.org/.

Insurance. Kansas Department of Insurance ksinsurance.org/ is a resource for complaints and information, with a page for seniors on Medicare, long-term care insurance, and other resources for seniors ksinsurance.org/consumers/medicare.htm. Although some of their publications are available at the library, you can order free publications directly through their website or call 1-800-432-2484 (in Kansas only).

Victim's Rights And Consumer Protection. The Kansas Attorney General ksag.org/ has a special section for seniors ksag.org/page/helping-seniors. Assisting consumers and victim's rights are among some of their responsibilities, as well. For help, complete an online form found on their website or call them directly. Contact the library for help for details if you need help. The Bureau of Consumer Protection is a good source for filing consumer complaints: ftccomplaintassistant.gov/. Find here also the National Do Not Call Registry. The Better Business Bureau bbb.org/ has a place to file a complaint and to check out companies.

Consumer Health. The library has a specialist in consumer health. If you have health concerns look at the library's health website: jocolibrary.org/health or contact us with your question. Library materials are also available on a wide range of health topics. Explore Medline Plus: nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ and Pub Med ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/. Medicare: medicare.gov/ provides information on a wide range of health topics. Publications can be ordered from their website free of charge.

Information specifically for seniors is available at the Johnson County Area Agency on Aging <http://hsa.jocogov.org/aging/aging.shtml>. They provide a wide range of services from SCHICK, the agency that will help you identify the best Medicare program for you to the well-loved two-part Senior Directory <http://hsa.jocogov.org/documents/Johnson%20County%20Senior%20Directory.pdf>. Generally, they offer information and referral, in-home services, nutrition services, geriatric care management, caregiver support, community services, CARE Nursing Home Pre-admission Screening, and much more. Ask the library staff to help you find the contact for your needs.

Legal Resources. Seniors may have special legal needs. Although library staff cannot provide legal advice, the library does have a legal resources specialist who can guide you to the helpful resources that are in the library collection, online, or in the community. Our Personal and Family Law webpage at jocolibrary.org/default.aspx?id=13949 provides a list of, and in some cases, links to many of these resources. You can access the Westlaw database from the Central Resource Library. Please consult an attorney for advice.

Finances. Books, DVDs, and audio books offer a wide range of information such as estate planning, writing a will and investing. Along with newspapers and periodicals, a wealth of newsletters for investors is available at the Central Resources Library. *Value Line Investment Survey* is available at most of the libraries. Some financial newspapers and periodicals, such as the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Economist*, are also available online. Check the library's website for access from your home or office. This fall, the library will be offering two classes: Financial Workshop for Investors and Taking Stock in the Stock Market. For information on estate planning, getting your affairs in order and other financial topics for seniors, check out the Law for Seniors section in the library's Personal and Family Law website mentioned above.

Grandparents. Many grandparents enjoy their grandchildren, and some have taken the responsibility of raising them. The library has a wealth of children's materials and programs. Visit your library or check out jocokids.org/ and jocoteenscene.org/ for more information. Encourage your grandchild to get to know the Youth Services staff who can help guide their reading and interests. In USA.Gov usa.gov/, the gateway to government information, search "grandparents." If you are teaching your grandchildren, search "lesson plans" for ideas.

Travel. The library has books, DVDs, and audio books on travel near and far. Some good government online resources are travelks.com/, <http://travel.state.gov/>, <http://visitmo.com/>, and recreation.gov/. Other useful sites include Lonely Planet lonelyplanet.com/us, Fodor's fodors.com/, and Rick Steves' Europe ricksteves.com/.

Programs and Continuing Education. The library's program catalog is published quarterly and distributed at all of our libraries. Many programs are designed especially for seniors. The classes and programs can be found online, as well. Catalogs for Johnson County Community College (providing discounts for Brown and Gold members), the Johnson County Parks & Recreation, and other continuing education publications are available free at the library.

Finding friends and family. ReferenceUSA is a database that can help you find some long-lost friends and family members. Attend one of our classes on this database or ask library staff to help you navigate the database.

Genealogy and obituaries. Capable volunteers staff the library's Genealogy Department. They will search for obituaries and help people do genealogical research. Send your obituary request to jclref@jocolibrary.org. Check out the library's genealogy website: jocolibrary.org/genealogy.

Large Print Book Club to Go Kits. Large Print Book Club to Go Kits are available for patrons who need large print books for their book group. The kits contain eight large print copies of a book, a summary of the book, and suggested discussion questions, all in a zippered tote bag. The kits may be checked out for 60 days. For Large Print Book Club to Go Kits, call Lynn Wild, Senior Services Librarian, at 913-826-4600, ext. 64382 or email at wildl@jocolibrary.org.

Please keep the library in mind as you seek Information, entertainment, and community.
Contact the library at 913-826-4600, jclref@jocolibrary.org, instant messaging, or better yet, come in!
We'll be glad to see you.

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