



**Schindler 3300**  
Osawatome Public Library  
Osawatome, Kansas



# Knowledge Finds a Larger Home



It's a small town, with a population of about 6,000, located near Kansas' eastern border with Missouri. Its name, Osawatomie, is a combination of the names of two American Indian tribes, the Osage and the Pottawatomie.

The area is rich in local history and during the Civil War era, Osawatomie was the base of operation of John Brown, the legendary abolitionist. Preserving the heritage of the town is partly the mission of its 18,000-volume library, which maintains an extensive collection of local historical volumes as well as Civil War genealogy. While the library occupied a small two-story building, only the ground floor offered usable

space of about 3,600 square feet. The basement was virtually inaccessible to library members who were disabled or to parents accompanied by children in strollers, because it was too difficult to navigate down the flight of steps.

## **Renovation**

When Osawatomie town officials decided it was time to renovate the library, they determined that an elevator would be in order. Clearly, space was at a premium in the small building so an elevator without a machine room would be a real plus. Since libraries are also known for offering a

tranquil atmosphere, quiet operation was highly desirable. And, costs are always a challenge in small communities so an affordable elevator, economical to operate would be a must. The elevator that answered all of the library's needs was the Schindler 3300. The Schindler 3300 was the right choice since it eliminates the need for a machine room or control closet. The architect utilized the space, which would have been required for a control closet as a new electrical room and HVAC pipe chase, creating even more usable space for the library.

### **Transformation**

The Schindler 3300 had a dramatic impact on the service the Osawatomie library provides to its community. According to Elizabeth Trigg, the library's director, "Not only did the Schindler 3300 elevator conserve space for us, it actually doubled our usable area to 7,200 square feet by making our lower level accessible to everyone. In fact, our children's collection is housed there and our summer reading program attracted 450 children who, in total, read 227,000 pages! Of course the elevator itself is a big hit with the children who all want to push the button to send it on its way."

### **Visitation?**

Ms. Trigg continued, "For awhile we wondered if the elevator might be haunted. One day we had a storm with a power failure and the elevator automatically returns to the lower level when this happens. We heard voices coming from the elevator but upon inspection found no one inside and no one on the lower level. Could it be the ghost of John Brown? We later learned that when there is a power failure, the local Schindler service office is notified through remote monitoring and they call the elevator to see if anyone is inside. As far as we're concerned, it is just another example of the great service that we've received from Schindler. Their people have been complete professionals and a pleasure to work with ... although the ghost story was kind of fun while it lasted." ■

