

**Final Report
NASA Grant
South Dakota State Library
June 24, 2020**

a. Promote, circulate and manage NASA@ My Library Kits to public libraries

- a. Please describe the kit reservation system that you used and provide recommendations to other State Library Agencies.

We chose to circulate our NASA Kits through our South Dakota Share-It network. In addition to the three kits we received, we created, one copy of Kit 1 and three copies of Kit 2. Kit 2 has one with a Lakota/Native American emphasis and two that have been modified for the blind and visually impaired. One of the latter kits has been permanently loaned to the SD School for the Blind. All other kits can be checked out for one-month periods but could be renewed for longer periods of time depending on demand.

Refills for the kits are provided by the state library. We now have bins for our consumables and a process for checking inventory and refilling consumables when the kits return to the State Library. The remainder of our grant funds were spent on purchasing items to refill the kits for the coming year. We replicated four more Native American kit 2. We distributed those in heavily populated native communities.

- b. What proved to be the most effective ways to promote the kits to your public libraries?

The kits have been heavily promoted in a variety of ways. They were brought to each of the eight Summer Reading "Jump Start" regional workshops in February and March. This grant was discussed. Availability of the kits were also promoted at various trainings across the state with promotional flyers distributed. NASA@MyLibrary kits were promoted at the annual summer Public Library Training Institute for small and rural librarians. Twenty-six librarians did an Oreo moon exercise and took home information about the kits and programming opportunities for their local rural libraries. This grant and kits were also promoted on our State library [webpage](#) . We created a LibGuide page (<http://libguides.library.sd.gov/services/NASA>) to answering many questions. We additionally promoted virtual programming through social media by encouraging librarians to record themselves facilitating the activities. doing the activities. This was shared on our statewide listserv which provide easy access to the survey. Our survey is required by participants to complete and answers many questions which save SDSL staff a lot of time.

- c. What kit orientation and training methods did you provide to your public libraries and what were best received?

SDSL offered a workshop in the 'train-the-trainer' model for our libraries. We demonstrated one or more of the kits at a time. This gave rural librarians an opportunity to become familiar with the NASA kits and develop ideas for local programming.

We put together a bibliography of current popular fiction and non-fiction titles on space-related topics including Native American and Lakota folk lore. Currently in our collection we have a wide range of books we recommended

- *Star Boy c. 2005 and All Our Relatives: Traditional Native American Thoughts about Nature by Paul Goble (c. 1983)*
- *Lakota Star Knowledge: Studies in Lakota Stellar Theolog by Ronald Goodman c. 1992/2017*
- *Dakota/Lakota Star Map Constellation Guidebook: An Introduction to D(L)akota Star Knowledge" by Annette Sharon Lee and Jim Rock c. 2014*
- *They Dance in the Sky: Native American Star Myths" by Jean Guard Monroe and Ray A. Williamson, c. 1987*
- *"The Star People: A Lakota Story" by S.D. Nelson c. 2003.*

These titles helped to show our librarians how they can incorporate fiction and non-fiction titles into their own unique programs at their local libraries as part of 2019 " Universe of Stories" summer reading theme.

We purchased multiples space related resources and "Lakota Star Knowledge: Studies in Lakota Stellar Theology" to include in our kits. Many of these Native American resources are listed in the DOE approved South Dakota "Oceti Sakowin Content Standards" and are highly recommended as literature to integrate into regular courses when teaching content subject matter in the sciences and social sciences.

The South Dakota Braille and Talking Book Library brought a unique perspective to this year's theme of space and "Universe of Stories". We provide thematically connected materials in accessible formats such as book lists, resources guides, tactile and braille astronomy maps with a goal of making library programs accessible to all.

- d. What kit shipping issues did you encounter and how did you address them?
Response

Not all our rural librarians have a courier drop off, some librarians must drive to a larger community library to pick up the kit. This extra traveling became very discouraging.

We addressed each situation in an individual way. In some locations the library director found someone who was traveling to a larger library to pick up

kits, SDSL staff dropped kits off when available and kits we brought to many statewide conferences for pick up.

- e. Please describe other important kit management issues that you needed to address and your responses.

Due to the government shutdown and a delay in getting our contract signed, we didn't have the kits ready to circulate until late May 2019. We also had a long wait to get supply's for duplication and we received the Tactile and Braille resources late. This delayed some kit circulation to communities.

The duplicated Native American kits were delayed in distribution to the individual libraries because of the pandemic situation.

b. Build SLA staff capacity through professional development

- a. Please describe how the capacity of your organization changed as a result of participating in this project.

We are now offering more STEM activities for circulation statewide and we are now collaborating the science standards SD DOE educators.

- b. NaML provided written materials, webinars and monthly calls to build SLA capacity. What methods were most effective and why?

The written materials provided by your team was the most effective for our 'train the trainer' model. Giving librarians access to your materials like videos, lesson plans, manuals has increased their STEM skills. By you providing promotional materials librarians became aware of the additional opportunities for collaboration and local librarians have gained confidence in presenting STEM related programming

- c. Please describe the duties of the SLA staff that worked on this project and the support the organization provided during the project.

Response

These are following duties of the SLA Staff

- 1. Live Training*
- 2. Conference Presentation*
- 3. Promoted through List Serv, website, Lib Guides, Flyer, tele- marketed to SD libraries*
- 4. Ordering Supplies and containers*
- 5. Assembling Kits*
- 6. Administrative duties.*
- 7. Attending Monthly meetings*

8. *Collaboration with Department of Education*
9. *Researched targeted resources /Native American Kit*
10. *Adapted resource for BBTB Kit*
11. *Circulation of kits*
12. *Follow w/ surveys and review evaluations*

c. **Build relations with Earth and space organizations that benefit your public libraries** (e.g., Night Sky Network, Solar System Ambassadors, NASA Centers, local astronomy clubs, etc.)

a. Please describe your approach to and results of engaging Earth and space organizations.

b.

1. *We distributed resources through a 110 Jump Start kits*
2. *Presented Live training at Public Library Institute to 26 librarians.*
3. *Additional flyers were included in 4 duplicated Native American kits*
4. *We advertised on our List Serv, website and wrote targeted articles for the SDSL e- newsletter*
5. *We joined the “South Dakota Space Grant Consortium” and now have access to their resources as well.*

SD has very limited participating outside educational resources for this project. Example. Solar System Ambassador sand local astronomy clubs

c. What advice do you have for other SLAs on them connecting these types of organizations with their public libraries?

In states with larger cities they have more opportunities to connect with these groups. Our collaboration will not stop with this project. Our libraries need to keep it going even though the kits aren't consistently circulating. We will encourage them to keep the connection strong ALWAYS!

d. **Manage the project**

a. Please describe the primary ways that you used the NASA funding.

We received three kits and created, one copy of Kit 1 and three copies of Kit 2. Kit 2 has one kit with a Lakota/Native American emphasis and two kits that have been modified for the blind and visually impaired. One of the latter kits has been permanently loaned to the SD School for the Blind. In the winter of 2020, kit 2 was also duplicated 4 more times with Native American materials and any additional funds were spent on promotional materials.

b. Please describe any in-kind funding that your agency provided to support the project (e.g., staff time, kit duplication, travel, etc.) and the approximate amount.

Staff time

- 2 Library Management
- 2 Senior librarians
- 1 Interlibrary Loan/Cataloging Librarian
- 1 administrative assistant
- 2 BBTB Staff

Travel

- Travel to conferences and LIVE training

- c. What materials/resources should the project provide to help incoming public libraries engage their underserved audiences in an intentional manner?

We suggest you provide more tactile and interactive resources for patrons with disabilities. We recommend more diverse lesson plans and activities. Example Lakota “Star Knowledge”. It is also suggested to provide virtual programming guidelines

- d. What recommendations do you have for SLAs that may join the project in the future?

Please make sure you give plenty of time for ordering resources. Make sure you collaborate with other community members and allow for extensive administration time to fill out paperwork. For example, the Final report was anticipated to take :30 minutes to complete. For us the process was more than three hours.

- e. What are the principal reasons for not requesting a no-cost extension?

We requested the no-cost extension the first time but didn't need the second one because funds were spent.

- f. If applicable, please describe any NaML-related programs that you offered to people that visited your SLA (e.g., # of programs, types, promotional methods, audiences, outcomes, etc.) and lessons-learned.

We didn't host any functions for the public at the State Library Agency. We did host a LIVE informational hands-on session about NASA@myLibrary programs to the Department of Education Staff July 2019.