

Sharing Mission Resources Through Libraries: A New Model

The Lunar and Planetary Institute has been engaging children through library programs for 15 years, and is testing a new model for sustainability.

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Why Libraries?

- REACH: Over 16,000 public libraries nationally
- UNDERSERVED: Libraries reach out to underserved and low-income populations.
- SCIENCE OUTREACH: Librarians seek science programming, materials, and training for their children's and youth programs.

A New Model for Sustainability

Librarians have suggested evolving training models to better meet their needs:

- Libraries need local partnerships to broaden access to their community, leverage local resources, and build sustainable programs; trainings can introduce potential partners.
- Libraries lose programming capacity when trained librarians leave the field; they need greater expertise within the region.

In FY2011, LPI began testing a new model— “cluster trainings” — at different locations within the Mid-Atlantic region. This regional cluster model incorporated regional partners and mentors--inviting select participants to return as library mentors at successive trainings.

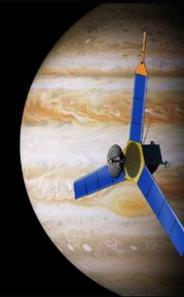
LPI conducted trainings using the Juno mission's Explore materials: *Jupiter's Family Secrets*. A total of 58 librarians and 11 other educators attended.

The trainings incorporated regional connections to provide more sustainable support for participants.

- Educators from the NASA Aerospace Education Services Project, NASA Wallops Space Flight Center, and NASA IV&V gave presentations.
- Participants met with local astronomy clubs.
- Educators from museums, state and national parks, scouting organizations, and afterschool organizations also attended the trainings.
- All attendees received contact information for NASA Centers, AESP, and astronomy clubs within their states.

Training Results:

- External evaluation rated trainings as very successful.
- Final training data was not evaluated externally, but data indicated participants were extremely satisfied with the training, with 100% of participants reporting that the experience overall was very good to excellent.
- Ninety six percent of participants in final training indicated that they plan to implement most or all of what they learned.
- Impact: increased interest in space science programs and networking between librarians and other organizations.
- Lasting effects will require further evaluation.



Explore Library Program

The Lunar and Planetary Institute's (LPI) *Explore* program creates children's programming focusing on space and planetary science themes.

- topics each include hands-on activities, background content, and resources.
- Live and web-based trainings held across the US.
- Over 900 librarians and other educators have attended.
- Surveys show 86% are actively using *Explore* materials, and 60% implement *Explore* activities regularly.

Contact Us!

This work was supported by generous education grants from NASA's Science Mission Directorate for the Juno mission. For further information about working with libraries or the *Explore* program, please contact education@lpi.usra.edu.

Incorporating Mentors

Four librarians participated as mentors within trainings, after first attending the training as participants, to serve as role models and regional resources. Mentors shared their experiences on implementation, community engagement, and building partnerships.



- Mentors are interested in continuing to communicate with the librarians in their states, in sharing their experiences, and even have asked permission to conduct their own workshops to share out *Explore* resources.
- One librarian mentor is incorporating the materials into other STEM librarian workshops she is facilitating.
- Another librarian mentor contributed to an ALA (Association for Library Services to Children) blog as a result of her Juno experiences.

