

# Final Report - Ideas to Action 2021

## D. R. Moon Public Library, Stanley: DELOS - Delivering Expanded Library Outreach Services

***Did your project encourage partnerships and collaborations with any community partners or other WiLS members? Who did you connect with during this process and how might you sustain those connections?***

The DELOS project was truly a community partnership with the elders and teachers in the Old Order Mennonite and Amish communities. Without their collaboration and support we could not have successfully carried out this project. We plan to sustain this connection with these partners through dialogue and our continued presence in their communities.

Other local community partnerships include the Friends of our library and the City of Stanley for their support and encouragement. We will keep involving the Stanley community in all our efforts through communication and collaboration.

We've also had library contacts reach out to us to talk about our outreach to the Amish and Old Order Mennonites in hopes of replicating our efforts in their own communities. We will continue to be an open resource for others and spread the word about possible ways to reach rural communities like ours.

***Thinking about your project, what was the most innovative part? What can you, or your community, do now that it couldn't before?***

The most innovative part of our project was the idea to offer curriculum packets to the Amish and Old Order Mennonite schools. The school elders who previously had been uninterested and wary about anything the library had to offer were suddenly accepting and enthusiastic when we presented our curriculum idea to them. With limited resources, many schools welcomed the packets as a supplement to their own materials, and the limited nature of the packet meant that school elders could personally review every piece of curriculum before their scholars ever saw it. Those members of our community now had some access to the library which they didn't before and we were able to reach more of our rural areas which we couldn't before.

***How do you think other WiLS members could use what you learned and accomplished at their own organizations?***

Teachers, whether those in traditional or non-traditional schools, are always looking for more resources and better ways to reach their students. Our program of direct communication with rural teachers and communities and our willingness to work with them to establish trust to provide them with resources they want and can use, can certainly help other WiLS members looking to expand their outreach to rural areas or students and teachers, particularly those at non-traditional schools.