



A Touch of the Universe



Abstract: “A Touch of the Universe” is a Project that built a kit of accessible astronomy resources for persons with visual impairments

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Context

There is a lack of resources to talk and teach about astronomy to publics with visual impairments, specially in developing countries and underserved communities

We decided to put together some tactile resources we had developed together with contributions by other authors to create a kit on tactile astronomy



We developed tactile materials that were tested by visually impaired persons all over the world. These tests helped us to obtain the final models that were included into the final kit.



The project was possible thanks to funding mainly from the IAU OAD, with contributions from the SEA, among others



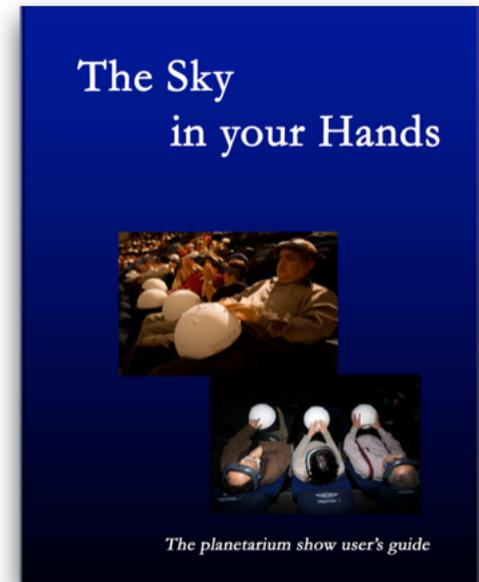
What is in the kit?



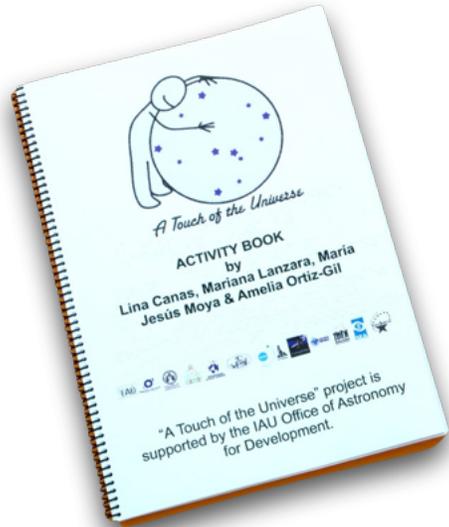
“The Sky in Your Hands” planetarium show (tactile hemisphere and soundtrack in a DVD)



Tactile 3D model of the Moon



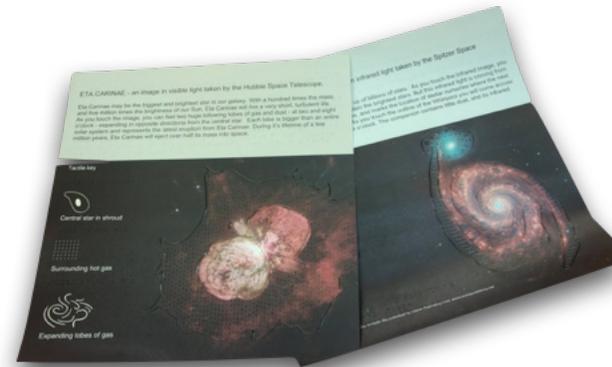
Guide to the planetarium show and to the Moon model



Activity book using the kit's materials



Book in Braille about the Moon's phases



Tactile FETTU prints (NASA-CXO)



3D constellation models

Results

30 kits were produced and sent to underserved communities from all over the world



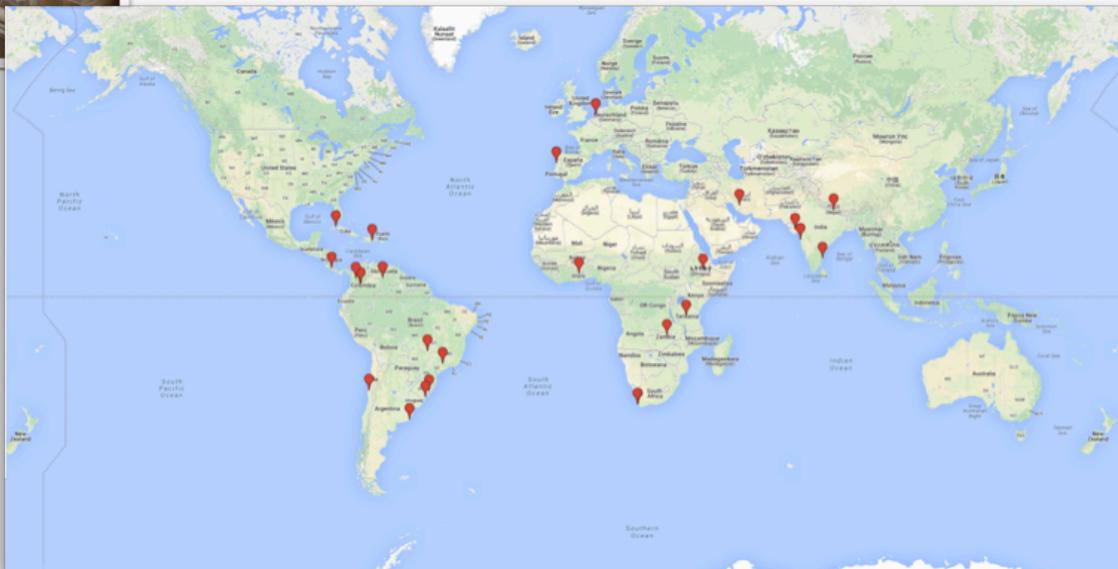
Nepal



Argentina



India



Impact & Future prospects

- Since 2012 we have received many requests for the kits materials and the feedback from the users has been extremely positive
- We have continued the project by creating new 3D models (Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars)
- The tactile materials can be downloaded from the project's website together with activity books: <https://astrokit.uv.es>
- We plan to produce also 3D tactile models of asteroids and moons