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Using Events like the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse to Promote Your Library, Your Campus, and Science Literacy to the Larger Community

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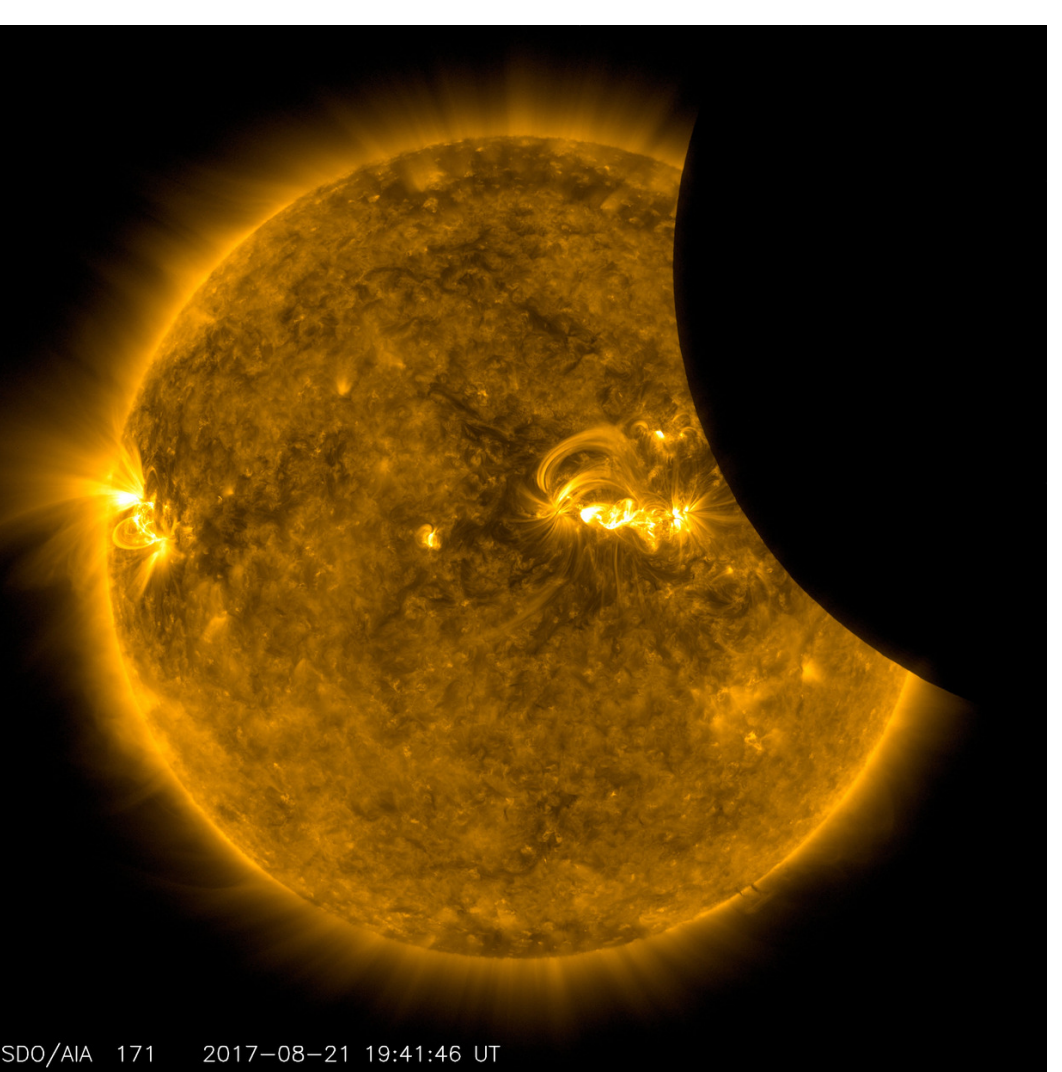
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Using events like the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse to promote your library, your campus, and science literacy to the larger community

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The Eclipse & SIUC



Southern Illinois University, located in Carbondale, Illinois, is at the crossroads of both the 2017 and 2024 total solar eclipses. The 2017 total solar eclipse occurred on August 21, 2017, and Carbondale was in totality for 2 minutes and 38 seconds, the longest period of darkness in the country. With months of preparation,

thousands of visitors, NASA broadcasting live from Saluki Stadium, and widespread excitement, the eclipse provided unique opportunities for Morris Library to engage the community and help spread science literacy.

Library Partnerships

Partnering with campus & community groups was essential in organizing, promoting, & conducting eclipse related library events. We partnered with several groups including:

- The campus-wide & community eclipse planning committee
- Local public libraries
- Local service organizations
- Various departments on campus
- STEM graduate students
- Local K-12 teachers & schools
- A local history museum
- An area science center



Sign outside SIUC Rec Center

Outreach Efforts

On Campus



Book & Journal Displays Display Case Exhibits Rotunda Exhibits

- Created displays on library monitors
- Gave presentations to library staff and faculty
- Located resources for the university's eclipse website
- Staffed eclipse table at new student welcome events

In the Community

- Organized eclipse book club with local public library
- Sponsored book reading & signing for "American Eclipse: A Nation's Epic Race to Catch the Shadow of the Moon and Win the Glory of the World" by David Baron
- Presented at public libraries
- Presented to local service organizations
- Handed out eclipse glasses in the library and during presentations
- Printed eclipse related 3D models - NASA's Illinois shaped pinhole projectors & Moons



3D Printed Pinhole Projector and Model of the Moon

Lessons Learned

- Presentations about the eclipse were well attended: 186 people attended the 5 public library presentations.
- Handing out eclipse glasses helped advertise SIU.

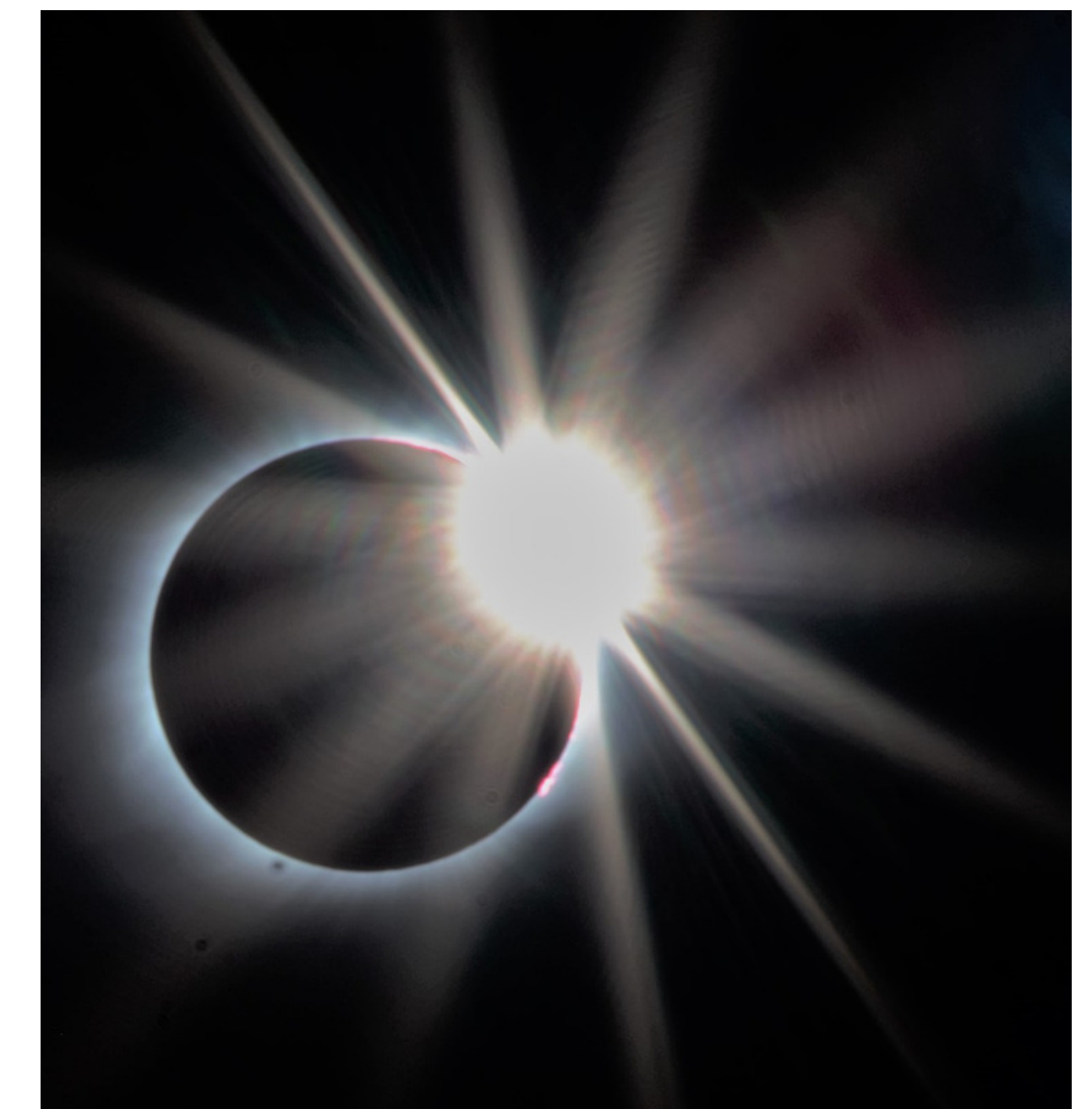


Eclipse Glasses

- The book signing and reading was a great success. It involved people across the Southern Illinois region.
- The book club was not well attended. More marketing would help, as would involving additional public libraries.
- Having a librarian on the campus-wide committee was essential. It allowed the library a seat at the table.
- It was difficult to include students, as the eclipse occurred on the first day of the fall semester.
- The 2017 eclipse is now over, but the 2024 eclipse is soon. Use the excitement from the eclipses to further campus interest in astronomy & science by inviting speakers, promoting STEM events, & highlighting relevant library materials.
- Have fun & enjoy the event!



Exhibit Poster



Diamond Ring Effect

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