



# Dakota Collections Care Initiative

A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT between  
NORTH DAKOTA and SOUTH DAKOTA  
**2011-2013**

*Funding for DCCI Provided in Part by  
Collecting Institutions in North Dakota and South Dakota  
and*



# Project Overview

Funded by a \$237,703 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the Dakota Collections Care Initiative (DCCI) was a three-year partnership between collections care professionals at museums, libraries, and archives in North Dakota and South Dakota to improve collections care and emergency preparedness and response for small and mid-sized collecting heritage institutions across the two states.

DCCI was based on the findings from IMLS-funded statewide planning projects undertaken separately by North Dakota and South Dakota between 2008 and 2010.

- [North Dakota Cultural Heritage Initiative and its Collection Conversations](#)
- [South Dakota Connects to Collections](#)

Four institutions in the two states led the effort to make DCCI a reality: Plains Art Museum, Fargo; State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck (fiscal agent); and South Dakota State Historical Society and South Dakota State Library, Pierre.

## Advisory Committee

- DCCI Project Co-Director: Chelle Somsen, State Archivist, South Dakota State Historical Society
- DCCI Project Co-Director: Mark Ryan, Director of Collections and Operations, Plains Art Museum
- Ann Jenks, State Archivist, State Historical Society of North Dakota
- Colleen Kirby, Assistant State Librarian, South Dakota State Library (Year Two)
- Stacia McGourty, Collections Services Librarian, South Dakota State Library (Year One)
- Ronette Rumpca, Curator of Interpretation, South Dakota State Historical Society
- Jay Smith, Museum Director, South Dakota State Historical Society
- Jenny Yearous, Curator of Collections Management, State Historical Society of North Dakota

## Consultants

- Project Conservator: Terri Schindel, Museum Training Network
- Project Administrator: Dana Schaar Jahner, Jackie Nye, and Annie Bennett, Clearwater Communications

“*I learned a lot of new things. Especially that planning is essential to museum and library operations.*”



# Project Results

During the multi-year DCCI project, 177 institutions and 380 individuals (staff, board members, and volunteers) in North Dakota and South Dakota received training and other support on collections care and disaster planning and response preparedness. Those benefiting from DCCI primarily represented small and mid-sized institutions with limited access to professional training or financial and personnel resources.

Further, 43 institutions took the additional step to develop a Pocket Response Plan (PReP) or written disaster plan and purchased supplies to be ready to act in the event of an emergency. Nineteen institutions committed to being part of a Mutual Aid Network in North Dakota and in South Dakota after DCCI concludes.

## DCCI Participation Summary

	North Dakota	South Dakota	TOTAL
<b>YEAR ONE</b>			
<b>Workshop</b>			
Individuals	102	139	<b>241</b>
Institutions	53	71	<b>124</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	6	6	<b>12</b>
<b>YEAR TWO</b>			
<b>Spring Workshop</b>			
Individuals	66	59	<b>125</b>
Institutions	37	43	<b>80</b>
<b>Summer Workshop</b>			
Individuals	48	60	<b>108</b>
Institutions	27	30	<b>57</b>
<b>Written Disaster Plan</b>			
PReP	20	23	<b>43</b>
Calling Tree Test	3	2	<b>5</b>
<b>Mutual Aid Network</b>			
Emergency Contact List	19	17	<b>36</b>
MOU	10	9	<b>19</b>

“*I was very impressed with the depth of knowledge of both trainers. They were very good at all aspects of imparting information to the group.*”

“*Content well targeted to participants, very helpful for future planning.*”

# Year One Highlights

In summer 2012, DCCI provided 12 institutions (six in each state) with a free, in-depth collections care assessment over two days, followed by the opportunity to host a three-day collections care workshop which were free for area museums, libraries, archives, and other collecting institutions.

The project conservator responded to questions from workshop participants throughout the remainder of the initiative and also followed up with each host institution to help them complete one or more projects identified in their institutional assessments.

## Host Institutions

The DCCI Advisory Committee selected the 12 host institutions from the 41 applications submitted for this opportunity.

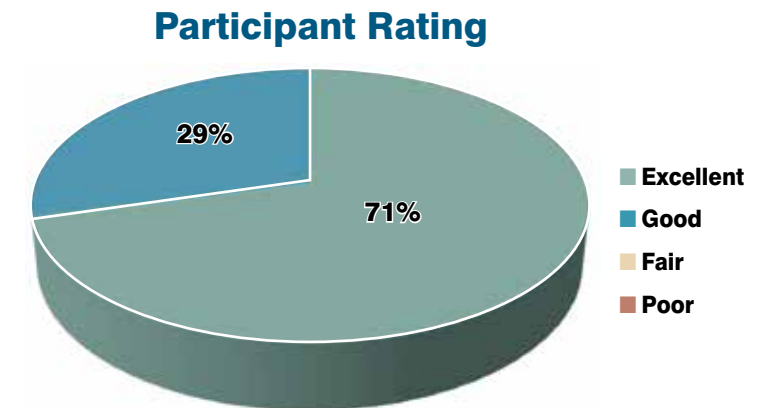
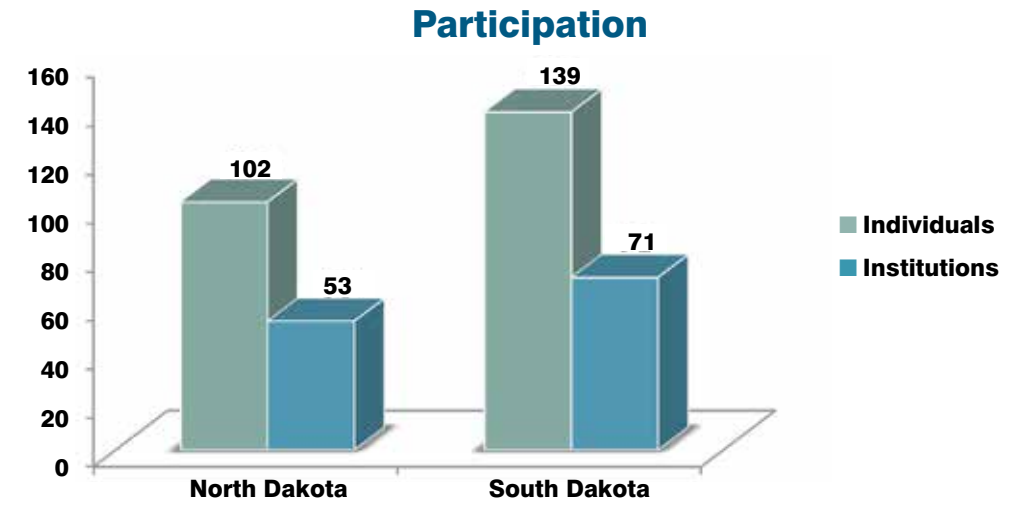
Host Institution	Community
Dakota Territorial Museum	Yankton, SD
Dickinson State University Stoxen Library	Dickinson, ND
Fort Sisseton Historic State Park	Lake City, SD
Gregory County Historical Society	Dallas, SD
Griggs County Historical Society	Cooperstown, ND
Keystone Area Historical Society Museum	Keystone, SD
Lewis & Clark Trail Museum	Alexander, ND
Minot State University Northwest Art Gallery	Minot, ND
Ox Cart Trails Historical Society	Drayton, ND
Pioneer Trails Regional Museum	Bowman, ND
Timber Lake & Area Historical Society	Timber Lake, SD
Tri-State Museum	Belle Fourche, SD

“*The workshop was well planned out and will make a big difference in how we do things.*”

“*The hands-on activities helped all learn quickly and easily. Had great networking during the activities.*”

## Year One Workshops

Two hundred forty-one people participated in the workshops, representing 124 institutions in North Dakota and South Dakota. The participants reported positive ratings for the workshops on the evaluation forms.



# Year Two Highlights

In 2013, DCCI provided a series of free disaster preparedness and response planning workshops for museums, libraries, archives, and other collecting institutions in North Dakota and South Dakota. The two-day spring workshops focused on planning, including how to complete a Pocket Response Plan (PReP). The project conservator provided assistance and mentoring to those institutions working on PRePs prior to the follow-up one-day summer workshops focused on response and recovery techniques with hands-on activities and scenario table-top drills.

A disaster supply stipend was provided to institutions that developed PRePs or written disaster plans. Finally, the initiation of a Mutual Aid Network in each state was undertaken.

## Host Institutions

Four institutions in each state were identified by the DCCI Advisory Committee as hosts for the workshops based on their institutional capacity and regional location.

Host Institution	Community
Dickinson Museum Center	Dickinson, ND
Homestake Adams Research & Collections Center	Deadwood, SD
Northern State University Library	Aberdeen, SD
Plains Art Museum	Fargo, ND
South Dakota Art Museum	Brookings, SD
South Dakota State Historical Society**	Pierre, SD
State Historical Society of North Dakota	Bismarck, ND
Ward County Museum*	Minot, ND

\*Spring location – Taube Museum of Art; summer location – Minot State University  
 \*\*Summer location – South Dakota National Guard Museum



South Dakota National Guard Museum



Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center

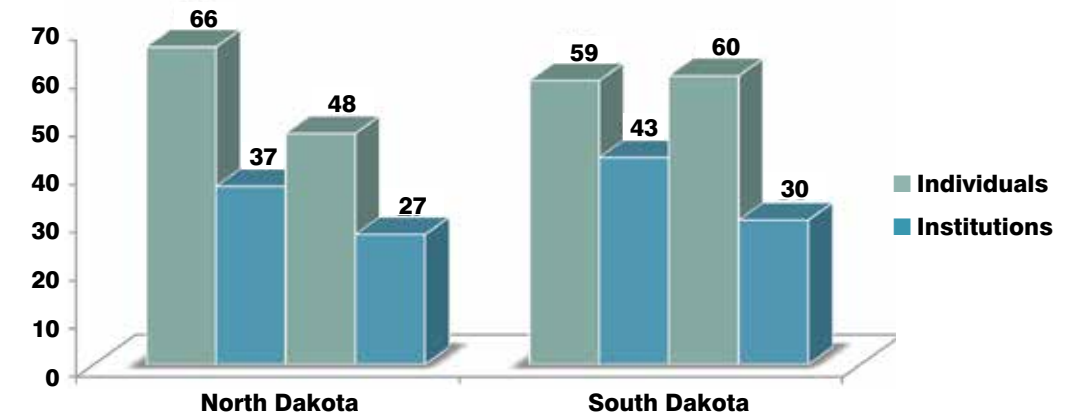
“*This is the information we needed to take our emergency disaster plan to completion. Thank you!*”

“*It is one thing to see and talk about it and another to actually have a hands-on trial. Very well done.*”

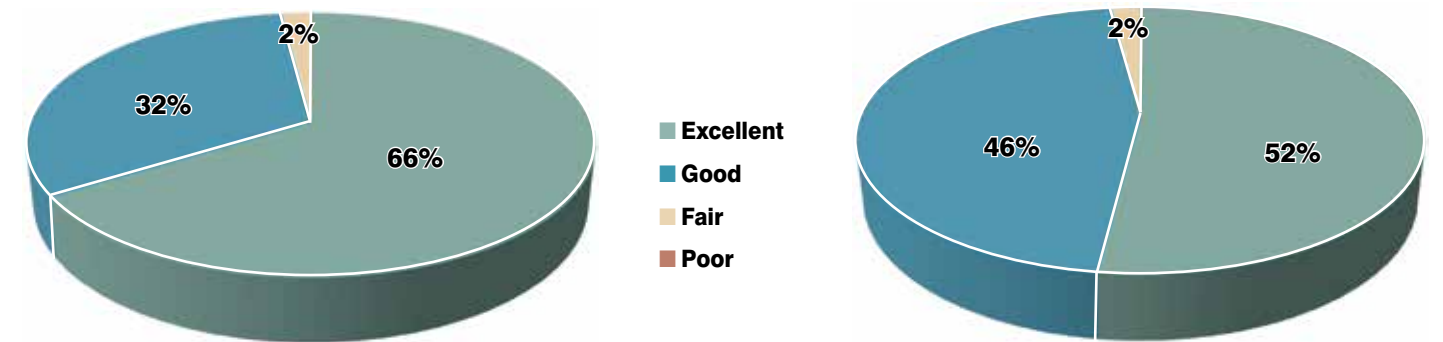
## Year Two Workshops

Two hundred thirty-three people participated in the spring and summer workshops, representing 137 institutions in North Dakota and South Dakota. The participants reported positive ratings for the workshops on the evaluation forms.

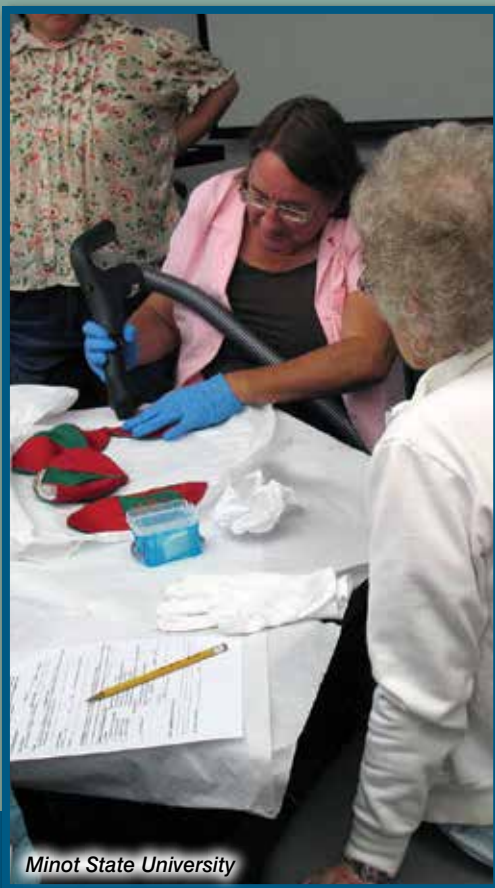
### Spring and Summer Participation



### Spring and Summer Participant Rating



Pierre Fire Station



Minot State University



State Historical Society of North Dakota



Ox Cart Trails Historical Society

## Dakota Collections Care Initiative

Plains Art Museum

State Historical Society of North Dakota

South Dakota State Historical Society

South Dakota State Library