

History and Archives Contribute to the Success of Space Flight Programs: NASA CR

Space exploration is a complex and challenging endeavor. To be successful, space agencies must rely on a wealth of knowledge and expertise. This knowledge can be found in the historical record of space flight programs. By studying the successes and failures of past missions, space agencies can learn from the mistakes of others and avoid repeating them.

In addition to providing valuable lessons, space history can also inspire future generations of space explorers. The stories of the men and women who have ventured into space are full of adventure, excitement, and discovery. These stories can captivate the imagination and inspire young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

For these reasons, NASA and other space agencies maintain extensive archives. These archives contain a wide variety of materials, including documents, photographs, videos, and artifacts. This material is used by researchers, historians, and educators to study the history of space flight and to inspire future generations of space explorers.



History and Archives Contribute to the Success of Space Flight Programs (NASA/CR-2018-220044)

by Mark A. Suckow

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The history of space flight can be traced back to the early days of rocketry. In the 1920s, German scientist Hermann Oberth published a paper outlining the principles of rocket propulsion. In the 1930s, American scientist Robert Goddard built and flew the first liquid-fueled rocket. During World War II, the Germans developed the V-2 rocket, which was the first ballistic missile.

After the war, the United States and the Soviet Union began to compete for supremacy in space. In 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite to orbit Earth. This event shocked the United States and led to the creation of NASA.

In 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space. Three years later, American astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the Moon. The Apollo program, which landed astronauts on the Moon, was one of the greatest achievements in human history.

Since the end of the Apollo program, space exploration has continued to progress. Astronauts have visited Mars, Venus, and Jupiter. They have built the International Space Station, a permanent orbiting laboratory. And they have begun to explore the possibility of sending humans to Mars.

The historical record of space flight is an invaluable resource for space agencies. By studying the successes and failures of past missions, space agencies can learn from the mistakes of others and avoid repeating them.

For example, the Apollo 13 mission was a near disaster. The mission was aborted after an oxygen tank exploded, crippling the spacecraft. The crew of Apollo 13 was able to return to Earth safely, but the mission could have ended in tragedy.

The Apollo 13 mission taught NASA a number of valuable lessons. For example, NASA learned that it was important to have a backup oxygen system in case of an emergency. NASA also learned that it was important to test spacecraft thoroughly before launching them into space.

The lessons learned from the Apollo 13 mission have been applied to all subsequent space missions. As a result, space flight has become much safer.

In addition to providing valuable lessons, space history can also inspire future generations of space explorers. The stories of the men and women who have ventured into space are full of adventure, excitement, and discovery. These stories can captivate the imagination and inspire young people to pursue careers in STEM.

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The NASA CR is a collection of over 100,000 documents related to the history of space flight. The CR includes documents from NASA, other government agencies, and private companies. The CR is a valuable resource for researchers, historians, and educators who are studying the history of space flight.

The CR is divided into several sections, including:

- **The Apollo Program:** This section contains documents related to the Apollo program, which landed astronauts on the Moon.
- **The Space Shuttle Program:** This section contains documents related to the Space Shuttle program, which was used to launch satellites and conduct spacewalks.
- **The International Space Station:** This section contains documents related to the International Space Station, a permanent orbiting laboratory.
- **Human Spaceflight:** This section contains documents related to human spaceflight, including the history of spacewalks and the development of space suits.
- **Space Science:** This section contains documents related to space science, including the exploration of Mars, Venus, and Jupiter.

The CR is a valuable resource for anyone who is interested in the history of space flight. The CR is available online at the NASA website.

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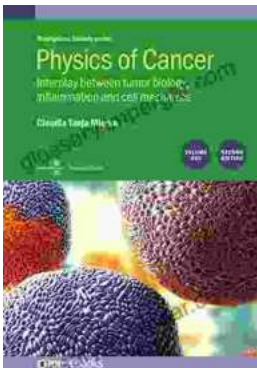
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