

**DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS
FOR
SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

FINDINGS

1. Authorization:

19 DCMR § 4320.7

2. Minimum Need:

The District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) has a need to subscribe to the Star Walk Kids Media Digital Collection for FY-15.

3. Estimated Fair and Reasonable Price:

\$9,308.00

4. Facts That Justify a Sole Source Procurement:

The District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) is committed to continuing purchasing and providing access to a broad selection of digital resources for children.

StarWalk Kids Media provides a collection of online streaming children’s eBooks with simultaneous access in library and remotely. The selection of materials is targeted for PreK – 8th grade though many titles will be appropriate for all ages. There are over 500 titles divided between fiction and informational text. Approximately 80% of the titles contain professional narration, including a “read-to-me” feature. More titles are being added monthly.

The StarWalk Kids collection focuses on delivering proven mentor texts from authors whose work that educators know and trust. Familiar and respected names in the StarWalk Kids catalog include not only Seymour Simon, but also David A. Adler, Bryan Collier, Doug Cushman, Diane deGroat, Johanna Hurwitz, Kathleen Krull, Newbery Honor author Kathryn Lasky, Caldecott-winner Emily Arnold McCully, Pat Mora, Doreen Rappaport, Hudson Talbott, New York Times Best Illustrated Book Award winner Laura Vaccaro Seeger, Bernard Waber, Jane Yolen, and more. The collection is evenly divided between fiction and nonfiction, and covers Pre-K through 8th Grade.

Each eBook in the collection has been expertly adapted and professionally narrated in preparation for digital streaming via the best-in-class, proprietary StarWalk Reader™, and all titles are accompanied by a “Teaching Links” document developed by nationally known literacy expert and StarWalk Kids Educational Advisory Board member Linda Hoyt. The Teaching Links match each eBook to relevant Common Core Standards, and provide suggestions for CCSS-appropriate teaching activities and further inquiry.

Other unique, defining features of the StarWalk Kids eBook platform:

- **MULTI-USER:** Unlimited number of users can read the same book at the same time without check-in/check-out delays or waiting lists.
- **DEVICE NEUTRAL:** A proprietary, browser-based StarWalk Reader works on virtually any device, including desktop/laptop computers, interactive whiteboards and tablets. Tablet users must first download the free *SWKids Reader* app from iTunes, the Google Play Store, or the Amazon App store.
- **STREAMING ACCESS ANYWHERE.**
- **ADVANCED SEARCH FEATURES:** Educators, families and students may search for books by author, title, keyword, subject, Lexile® level, Guided Reading (Alphabetic) level, Accelerated Reader® level and Common Core State Standard (CCSS).

StarWalk Kids Media is the sole publisher of StarWalk Media titles and is the sole source for acquiring the StarWalk Kids Media Streaming eBook collection.

5. CERTIFICATION BY THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COLLECTIONS

I hereby certify that the above facts are accurate and complete.

Elissa Miller
Associate Director of Collections

Date

6. CERTIFICATION BY THE CONTRACT SPECIALIST

I have reviewed the above findings and certify that they are sufficient to justify the use of the sole source method of procurement under the cited authority, I certify that the notice of intent to award a sole source procurement was published in accordance with D.C. Official Code §2-354.04 and that no response was received. I recommend that the Chief Procurement Officer approve the use of the sole source method of procurement for this proposed action.

Darryn A. Martin
Contract Specialist

Date

DETERMINATION

Based on the above findings and in accordance with the DCPL procurement regulations, 19 DCMR § 4320.7 I hereby determine that the award of a sole source contract for the services described herein is in the best interest of DCPL.

Diane Wooden
Chief Procurement Officer

Date