



THE NATIONAL SCIENCE DIGITAL LIBRARY

<http://nsdl.org>

## Ways to Participate in the NSDL Community

### Contribute Your Resources or Collections

NSDL encourages contributions of educational resources from NSF grant awardees, library users, community members, resource developers, content providers, educators, learners of all ages, and other collection builders. Contributions range from individual lesson plans or websites to collections of thousands of items, to technology-based tools and services that aid educational applications of digital resources. This strengthens the library and encourages reuse and sharing of materials. Additional benefits include:

**Exposure:** NSDL marketing and outreach activities promote access to resources and collections

**Dissemination:** resources and collections are made available within NSDL and other digital libraries

**Discovery:** search and browse mechanisms target collections and resources to appropriate audiences

**Recognition:** collections and resources are attributed to contributing providers

**Support:** access to technical assistance and tools for collection development and management

### Contributing Individual Resources

Contributing a small number of individual resources, generally 30 items or less, is easy to do:

- **Confirm that resources are within the scope of NSDL** - Are the resources of high quality and support innovations in teaching and learning at all levels of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education?
- **Complete the Recommend a Resource Form**  
<http://recommend.nsdl.org/> and provide the URL to a resource
- **Familiarize yourself with NSDL policies** - Review the *Contribute a Resource or Collection* information found at <http://nsdl.org/collection/>; and the *NSDL Collection Development Policy*: [http://onramp.nsdl.org/eserv/onramp:42/NSDL\\_Collection\\_Development\\_Policy.pdf](http://onramp.nsdl.org/eserv/onramp:42/NSDL_Collection_Development_Policy.pdf)

### Contributing Larger Collections of Resources

For larger collections, descriptive information about a resource is required. This information, called metadata, often includes a title, description, URL, education level, or keywords about a resource. Library users and applications read or access this metadata information to make decisions about whether

to go to or use a resource. In order to best display and discover your resources, it is important to provide concise, reliable, consistent, and useful metadata information when describing a resource.

To contribute larger collections of resources, first contact NSDL via the email form found at <http://nsdl.org/about/contactus>, and let NSDL know you are interested in collection contribution. Initially, the following information is required:

- Collection name and description
- Responsible organization submitting the collection
- Contact information for a responsible party at the submitting organization
- Type of materials in the collection
- Target audience for the materials
- Information about resource ownership
- Information about metadata ownership

After this information is received, an NSDL collection specialist will work with you through the subsequent steps in the process of collection contribution:

- **Creating metadata records** - Create Dublin Core metadata records in XML. See the *NSDL\_DC Metadata Guidelines*: <http://nsdl.org/collection/metadata-guide.php>
- **Sending metadata records to NSDL** - See *Providing Metadata to NSDL*: <http://nsdl.org/collection/metadata-guide.php#share>
- **Maintaining the collection** - Ensure that links to URLs within the collection are maintained, update metadata for resources if resources change

For further information on contributing educational resources or collections and the tools, people and documents that support this type of contribution, contact NSDL at <http://nsdl.org/about/contactus/>.

## Contribute Your Knowledge

- To contribute project information, community initiatives, events or news: <http://nsdl.org/about/contactus>
- Contribute your knowledge, expertise, discussions, reviews or annotations by participating in NSDL's Blogosphere, **Expert Voices**: <http://expertvoices.nsdl.org>

## Put NSDL on Your Website

- Provide access to NSDL resources from your website with the **NSDL Searchbox Gadget**: [http://www.google.com/ig/directory?hl=en&url=http://nsdl.org/gadget/nsdl\\_search.xml&synd=ig](http://www.google.com/ig/directory?hl=en&url=http://nsdl.org/gadget/nsdl_search.xml&synd=ig)

For more information, contact NSDL at <http://nsdl.org/about/contactus/>



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