

Pathway to Resources and Services for Community and Technical Colleges: Applied Math and Science Education Repository

Ed Level: Community Colleges Discipline: Applied Mathematics & Science

AMSER is a portal of applied mathematics and applied science educational resources and services designed specifically for use by faculty, staff, and students of community and technical colleges.

Project Goals:

- 1) Create AMSER portal with personalized audience-appropriate interfaces
- 2) Develop taxonomies tailored to the discovery and organization of applied math and science resources for community and technical colleges
- 3) Aggregate resources from the NSDL metadata repository, NSDL projects, other STEM collections, and community and technical college educators
- 4) Develop and publish personalized monthly *AMSER Bulletins* and quarterly *AMSER Updates* to inform target audience of new resources and services of interest
- 5) Create professional development programs to develop faculty skills in applying online resources in the classroom, with a focus on adjunct faculty
- 6) Promote NSDL and AMSER to community and technical college educators, libraries, support staff, and students

Organization:

Internet Scout, University of Wisconsin - Madison

People:

Rachael Bower - PI

Edward Almasy - PI

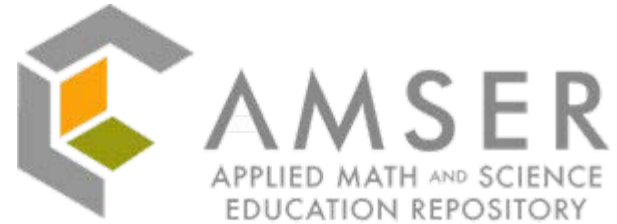
Partners:

MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Training)

AACC (American Association of Community Colleges)

AMATYC (American Association of Two-Year Colleges)

NSF ATE (Advanced Technological Education) projects



Collection Size and Development: 3,500+ resources / learning objects. New content is reviewed and cataloged by library science and subject specialists, using both GEM and Library of Congress Classifications subject hierarchies, which are mapped to course subject material drawn from more than 20 community and technical college catalogs.

Web Portal: Requires registration for personalized interface and services.

Search and Browse: Resources may be browsed by GEM Subject or Library of Congress Classification (LCC) taxonomies. Both keyword and fielded search is supported, with support for searching multiple metadata fields (*Contributor, Creator, Description, E-Mail, GEM Subject, LCC, Publisher, Relation, Rights, Subject, Title, and URL*) in combination and filtering results by up to six metadata fields (*Audience, Creator Role, Format, Language, Resource Type, and Source*) at a time. Keyword search supports phrases, term inclusion, and term exclusion.

Special Features: New resource list on home page, saved searches, folder system, recommender system, resource ratings, resource comments, e-mail bulletins. Many features personalized based on user interests and field of study.

Community Sign-On: Preliminary contact and discussion with Columbia CI staff.

Cataloging / Metadata Generation / NSDL MR: Resources automatically correlated to educational program (major or field of study) taxonomy developed at Internet Scout. NsdI_dc and oai_dc schemas supported for OAI-PMH. Collection and portal are built using CWIS (software developed at Internet Scout).

Rights Management: Resources are categorized with rights vocabulary intended in part to help determine the archiveability of content for collection stewardship.

Web 2.0 Technologies: RSS 2.0 feed, limited use of AJAX to increase degree of interactivity.

Evaluation Activities: First round of use case testing completed with videotaped use scenarios and user interviews. Second round of use case testing to be conducted following completion of portal interface revisions (based on first round test results) currently under way.

Outreach Activities: Primary outreach effort to community and technical college faculty and administrators will begin in August/September, with hands-on training workshops and faculty multi-day sessions. Pathways workshop planned for late fall 2006 or early 2007. Pathways and Annual Meeting participation.

Privacy Policy: Available via AMSER portal *About* page.

Unique Assets / Synergies: Strong background and experience in digital library development and user services creation, extensive (10+ year) experience in digital resource selection and evaluation, and substantial NSDL history and participation. Interest in promoting accessibility in resource, portal, and services design and delivery. Strong affiliations and avenues into technical and community college sector.