



<http://www.bioscienednet.org/portal/>

BiosciEdNet (BEN) Collaborative Pathway

Ed Level: Undergraduate & High School Discipline: Biology

The BiosciEdNet (BEN) Collaborative is expanding its stewardship role for professional societies and coalitions in the biological sciences through an NSDL Pathway project that provides resources, tools, and professional development for educators at the high school and undergraduate levels, including community colleges. BEN serves as a catalyst for professional societies or coalitions that seek to build their own education-focused digital libraries or contribute resources to the BEN portal, and that want to collaborate on effective pedagogy, authentic assessment, and development of multidisciplinary biological sciences resources. Start date: 10-15-2005

Project Goals: Provide technical assistance, tools, guidelines, professional development, and mentoring for professional societies and coalitions to build, maintain, and sustain high quality DLs that include metadata for individual biological sciences learning resources/objects.

Partners/People: The BEN collaborative is an extensive partnership of professional societies in the bio sciences. Primary partners are: American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS): Yolanda George – PI; Linda Akli – Portal operations; Shai Sachs, Isovera – Technical Lead; Cal Collins, Isovera – Systems Architecture | American Physiological Society (APS): Marsha Matyas - PI | Ecological Society of America (ESA): Jason Taylor – PI | American Society for Microbiology (AMS): Amy Chang – Co-PI; American Institute for Biological Sciences (AIBS): Susan Musante – Education Standards

See complete partners list at <http://www.bioscienednet.org/portal/about/partners.php>



Collection size and collection development: Sixteen collections with over 4,100 peer-reviewed resources/learning objects or journal articles and other publications. Extensive and varied review processes among partner collections. Multiple resource types sorted via four areas: Multimedia Auditorium (animations, images, illustrations, audio, video, webcast etc.), Reading Room (abstracts, book, journal, articles, presentations, proceedings, reports), Reference Room (bibliography, database, dataset, dictionary, indices, manuals, reviews, standards/guidelines, thesauri); and Classroom (pedagogical tools) (assessments, ed standards, lab guides, lesson plans, syllabi, strategies, etc.)

Web portal: Current access to resources from AAAS ScienceNetLinks and *Science's* STKE, ABLE, APS Archives, APSNet Education Center, ASM Microbelibrary, Botanical Society of America, ESA's EcoEdNet, Journal of Undergraduate Neuroscience Education, HAPS, NHM-Access Excellence, and the Society of Toxicology.

Search and browse: Search by title, author, keyword, description, discipline (subject and resource type); advanced search over selected fields (title, keyword, discipline, pedagogical use, resource type, audience (ed level), author, and author institution. Browse by subject or resource type. Subject list available (72 biosciences disciplines). Registration required to use search and browse services.

Special features: Nominate a resource for inclusion in the BEN collections; update user profile. Will host discussion groups, online events, events calendar; contribute a resource, comment on a resource (future development).

Community sign-on: Early contact made with Columbia CI.

Cataloging/metadata generation/ NSDL MR: Well defined and documented metadata processes; BEN metadata harvester and BEN collection developers tool. BEN documentation at: http://www.biosciencednet.org/project_site/. Collection-level only metadata in NSDL MR, to date. Restricted metadata issues of import to this partnership.

Web 2.0 technologies: Will incorporate NSDL filtered-by-audience RSS news feeds. Some partner collection sites utilize RSS. Evaluating use of NSDL Expert Voices.

Evaluation activities: Participation in August Evaluation workshop. Omniture not yet implemented. Planned for Winter 2006. User Survey at http://www.biosciencednet.org/project_site/BEN_Survey_Article_October_2004.pdf.

Outreach activities: Pathways and Annual Meeting participation. Faculty Rep/Pathways workshop planned for Dec. 8-10, 2006 in D.C. Professional society meetings. Interest in guidance on co-branding.

Privacy policy: Accessible from portal.

Unique assets / synergies: Extremely strong and extensive network of highly engaged professional societies and coalitions (24), including AAAS. Beneficial projects/tools/services developing from within partnership, such as the Universal Biological Indexer and Organizer uBio (Paddy Patterson, PI), a searchable name registry and index of scientific and common names for organisms. In final development stage: <http://www.ubio.org/>.