

NSDL Middle School Portal

August 2007

Collection Development

As of July 15, 2007, the Middle School Portal collection includes descriptions of 2,092 unique digital resources. The records describing these resources consist of original, creator-generated metadata and the metadata that MSP project staff added after the resource was identified as appropriate for the middle school audience. The creator-generated metadata came from 44 different collection providers including Teacher's Domain, Shodor Education Foundation, ComPADRE, Internet Scout, and MathDL.

The collection that created the original metadata is identified by the collection logo on each MSP record. These records can be browsed or searched and are highlighted in the MSP publications. As an example, this MSP record includes original metadata from comPADRE as well as metadata from the MSP - http://msteacher.org/view_resource.aspx?sub=science&id=190092649. This resource has also been highlighted in the Science and Myth section of the *Reason for the Seasons* publication - <http://msteacher.org/epubs/science/science7/myth.aspx>.

Content Development

The topics of the MSP publications are based on the topics covered in national science and mathematics standards documents. Each *Explore in Depth* publication provides a context for an average of 20 resources, including a review of the needed science or mathematics content knowledge and the National mathematics or science standards related to the topic. *Quick Takes* are one-pagers that highlight three to four exceptional digital resources from the NSDL collection. They are designed to be "just-in-time" aids for the teacher who needs just a few resources for a classroom activity or for a quick review of a topic.

All *Explore in Depth* publications can be found at http://msteacher.org/science_pubs.aspx (science) and http://msteacher.org/math_pubs.aspx (math). *Quick Take* publications can be found at http://msteacher.org/science_pubs.aspx#QT (science) and http://msteacher.org/math_pubs.aspx#QT (math).

Technical Development

Registration is available as of June 1, 2007. Users can register to receive an email when new content is posted to the site in either science and/or mathematics - <http://msteacher.org/registration.aspx>.

We are continuing to refine and add functionalities to the MSP Cataloging Data Repository and Cataloging Tool. Project staff are now able to build metadata records from scratch for resources that are not part of the NSDL collection. Project staff have created 89 new resources that are now available to be assigned to the MSP project.

Outreach

The NSDL Middle School Portal had a total of 202,511 page views from September 1, 2006 through July 15, 2007 according to Omniture SiteCatalyst Version 13.5.

Presentation:

Math and Science Symposium: Focus on Middle School Math and Science
Ohio Board of Regents
Kimberly Lightle, Presenter
April 26-27, 2007
Columbus, Ohio

Workshop:

Using Math Software Tools in the Middle School Classroom: A Workshop for Middle Grades Teachers
Steve Weimar and Annie Fetter, Facilitators
Philadelphia Teacher Workshop
June 21-22, 2007
http://mathforum.org/nsdl_mathtech/summer2007/agenda2.html

Site Links:

MiddleWeb: Exploring Middle Grades Reform
Quick Clicks to Great Resources
<http://www.middleweb.com/mw/aaResources.html>

Math Forum: Hot Spot of the Month
<http://mathforum.org/library/hotspots.html>

NSDL Middle School Portal e-mails publicity releases to groups involved in science and math education activities, web sites serving teachers, professional associations, and some government agencies. Fifty addresses are currently on our mailing list. The publicity releases announce new publications available on the Middle School Portal as well as new features and are sent out as new content and functionalities are made available.