

# Middle School Portal

**Ed Level: Middle Grades (5-9)    Discipline: Science and Mathematics**

The NSDL Middle School Portal provides access to selected online resources for instruction and professional development from the National Science Digital Library. Subject pathways in mathematics and science present in-depth online publications and Quick Takes on topics important to the middle level educator. Users can browse resources based on mathematics and science national standards subjects and search across the site. Start date: October 2003; prototype Pathway funded by NSDL CI).

**Project Goals:** 1) Contextualize NSDL resources by developing thematic online publications focused on the interests and needs of middle level educators; 2) Contribute augmented metadata of all resources used in the MLP to the NSDL Metadata Repository; 3) Improve the ability of users to discover resources through a mathematics and science subject and national mathematics and science standards browse and search; 4) Develop a target audience of committed NSDL users.

**Partners/People:** Ohio State University: Kimberly Lightle – PI, Director; Roger Cunningham – Technical Lead; Janet Kahkonen Keppler – Catalog Librarian; Terry Herrera – Mathematics Resource Specialist; Carolyn Hamilton – Editor; Andy Ault, Graphic Designer; Neil Epstein, Web Developer; Richard Huggins – Search engine, web metrics

## **NSDL Middle School Portal**

**Collection size and collection development:** 15 online publications developed; 1254 records augmented and can be browsed or searched.

**Web portal:** Revised design and content available August 1, 2006, including Quick Takes.

**Search and browse:** Search over mathematics and science areas, or all parts of the site. Browse is by science and mathematics subject lists developed from the national mathematics and science standards.

**Special features:** *Explore In depth* - electronic publications around teaching topics with teacher background, interactive content, applets, activities, standards. *Quick Takes* – one page just-in-time teaching/learning resource recommendations.

**Community sign on:** Not at this time.

**Cataloging/metadata generation/ NSDL MR:** Actively testing iVia software as metadata generation method. 50 item-level collections are being harvested from the NSDL MR via OAI with the metadata being augmented with Learning Resource Type, Audience, Grade Level, and ENCdl Subjects. All augmented metadata is being harvested by NSDL MR as part of the MSP records.

**Web 2.0 technologies such as blogging, tagging/bookmarking systems (e.g. del.icio.us); RSS feeds; gaming technologies:** Participated in testing NSDL *Expert Voices* blogging system by helping to coordinate and moderate the *Teaching Measurement at the Middle School Level* blog. Interested in RSS feed information for future implementation.

**Evaluation activities:** Omniture implemented on site. Google Analytics web metrics software reports 7000 page views per month.

**Outreach activities:** Pathways and Annual Meeting participation. Math Gateway partners meeting April 2006. Extensive collaboration with Pathways projects.

**Privacy policy posted and accessible:** Yes, under the *About* section.

**Unique assets / synergies:** Data management and cataloging tool; OAI harvesting/exporting capabilities. Provides service as a middle school level filter/'editor' for NSDL across Pathways and other collections. Developing middle level language/vocabularies. Collaborates with/contributes to Math Gateway to provide appropriate mathematics middle school content. Negotiations underway to work with NSDL CI to produce alignment of K-12 resources to MacMillan/McGraw-Hill K-12 textbook series for science chapter and/or section topics.