

<http://www.teachersdomain.org/>

# Pathway to Multimedia Resources for the Classroom and Professional Development: Teachers' Domain

**Ed Level: K-12**

**Discipline: Life, Earth, Space, & Physical Science**

Teachers' Domain is an online educational service that helps teachers enhance their students' learning experiences and advance their own teaching skills. Collections include high quality classroom-ready multimedia resources, and Teachers' Domain Professional Development courses provide exemplary classroom practice. TD collections include Science: Life Science, Physical Science, Engineering, Earth and Space Science, and Social Studies: The Civil Rights Movement, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Planned expansion in other disciplines. Start date: October 1, 2004 (building on earlier Collections work).

## Project Goals:

1) Aggregate video, interactive, and rich-media resources from WGBH, NSDL, and other collections, conforming resources to the Teachers' Domain model, which includes background essays, lesson plans, and correlations to national and state educational standards, and provide multiple pathways to resources; 2) Leverage existing WGBH collections, resources, and tools and services; 3) Conduct dissemination, promotion, and outreach for informed use in schools and informal education settings; 4) Conduct project evaluation and assessment through the Education Development Center's (EDC) *Center for Children and Technology*

**People:** Ted Sicker – PI; Karen Cariani – Project Manager; James Pence – Outreach; Peter Pinch – Technical development; Bob Donahue – Education standards, web metrics

**Partners:** Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS); Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics; Digital Library for Earth System Education (DLESE); other Public TV stations

**Collection size and collection development:** Approximately 1000 resources June 2006. Utilize at least two reviewers for each resource, a pedagogy specialist and a science content expert. Collection criteria available on site (<http://www.teachersdomain.org/colpolicy.html>). Working on new professional development courses.

**Web portal:** Free for educational use; registration required for full access to all site resources including multimedia resources, background information, correlations of resources to state standards, personalization services. No cost to register; registration protects the rights of the obtained resources, provides usage information, and allows personalization. Currently engaged in site redesign for interface improvements and for functionalities that provide access to resources provided by PTV affiliates

**Search and browse:** Browse via subject areas filtered by grade level: Engineering, Earth and space science, Life science, Physical science, and Social studies. Search by keyword, media type (video, audio, interactive, image, document, lesson plan), grade level, or subject area.

**Special features:** Personalization services: My folders, My Groups, My Courses, Preferences. Good user help throughout site. Highlighted resources and special collections. Search NSDL web service available from TD search page. Professional development content is licensed for use.

**Community sign-on:** Initial contact with Columbia CI made; provided use cases. Probable readiness to re-address this issue at current time.

**Cataloging/metadata generation/NSDL MR:** Project has own cataloguing tool and compatible XML schema. More focused content enables manual tagging of resources with controlled vocabulary for standards correlation, utilizing a TD-developed standards correlator tool appropriate for rich-media, non-text-based resources.

**Web 2.0 technologies such as blogging, tagging/bookmarking systems (e.g. del.icio.us); RSS feeds; gaming technologies:** None implemented live on site thus far, but in development.

**Evaluation activities:** Developing internal tracking software analyzing use of rich-media resources. Omniture fully implemented.

**Outreach activities:** Pathways and Annual Meeting participation. Planning stages for Pathways workshop later in 2006.

**Privacy policy:** Available from footer on portal.

**Unique assets / synergies:** Participated in NSDL focus group on standards-based educational work. Providing NSDL with in-depth usage reporting and analysis of Omniture data for NSDL site. Strong knowledge and experience in open access/licensing issues. Extensive experience and knowledge in teacher training professional development and use of rich media resources in educational settings.