NSDL Weeding Plan for 2012

1. Goal of Weeding

Weeding is the periodic and continual evaluation of library resources with the goal of removing aged, obsolete, non-relevant, inaccessible, broken, unusable or out of scope materials. Weeding ensures that library materials are useful, attractive, beneficial and accessible to your users. Good weeding makes a library more useful and user-friendly. It is a natural part of maintaining a healthy library. Over the NSDL's 11 years, its scope and community have evolved, and the collection needs to reflect these changes. The optimum target is for all collections to undergo review.

2. Criteria for Resource Deaccessioning

- Broken URL
- URLs within the resource are broken; the resource cannot be used
- Scientific or other content is no longer accurate
- Resource is out of NSDL scope or fails quality guidelines
- NSDL contains better resources with similar content of higher quality
- Lack of robustness as a digital resource (resource is very difficult to interact/navigate or requires old software that is no longer available)
- There has been an official finding of plagiarism or copyright violation
- Collection builder has requested removal
- Not directly accessible (e.g. subscription cost, goes to a landing page where it is difficult to get to the actual resource)
- Annotation or paradata shows a deliberate attempt to skew information about the resource either positively or negatively
- Resource portrays itself as learning materials but does not actually contain learning material
- NSDL contains many versions of the resource or practically the same content at different URLs (e.g. version 1.1 and 1.5 of the same digital resource or many resources that are the same, like glossaries of rocks)

Just recently, the DLESE Community Collection used these criteria to examine every resource in a collection of approximately 7000 3rd-party resources. This examination will result in 49% of the collection being removed.

3. Evaluating Resources

The NSDL Collections Team is engaging the AMSER Pathway to perform a review of NSDL collections.

3.a. NSDL Managed Collections

NSDL is the collection builder for 28 collections out of the 128 collections in NSDL. These are managed in the NCS hosted at NSDL. The resources can be reviewed directly in the NCS and deaccessioned, if need be.

3.b. Non-NSDL Managed Collections

Review of non-NSDL managed collections requires communications with the collection builder. Some collection builders maintain collections that are broader than the NSDL scope. These contributors often use OAI sets to differentiate among major topic areas, but even these smaller collections may still contain numerous out-of-NSDL-scope materials.

NSDL is aware of this scenario, and understands that contributors may not be able to make an NSDL-focused OAI set because it may disrupt the integrity of their collections. However, the NSDL needs flexibility to deaccession any resource in its collection. Currently, NSDL does not have this flexibility with OAI-harvested collections, because NSDL must talk to the collection builder who must remove the resource from their OAI provider. This cumbersome method of collections management really only works when a resource degrades to the point that both parties (collection builder and NSDL) approve deaccessioning of the resource.

In order to accommodate collection-builder needs for the resource to remain part of a collection and in their OAI provider, and to accommodate NSDL's need to properly apply NSDL accessioning criteria, NSDL proposes new work that would use the NSDL URL Vitality Report as the mechanism to indicate which resources in a collection are not appropriate for NSDL. The proposed review team would have access to all collection URL Vitality Reports and would use the criteria described in Section 2 to deaccession items via a click of a button and a reason statement. The new NSDL work would be to add this button and reason tracking/review indication and take action to remove the item from the NSDL search index.

4. *What Happens to Deaccessioned Items?*

When deaccessioning resources or collections, the NSDL Collections Team communicates with the collection builder by email and phone summarizing the proposed deaccessioning. The NSDL Accessioning Board (NAB) must approve whole collection deaccessioning.

 Once deaccessioning is complete, all deaccessioned items are removed from NSDL search index, web services and the **NSDL** OAI provider. Essentially, the resources are not part of the NSDL.