

## NSDL: the National Science Digital Library

Established by the National Science Foundation in 2000 as an online library of exemplary collections for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, the [National Science Digital Library \(NSDL\)](#) offers an organized point of access to a wide variety of teaching materials at all levels, from K-12 to higher education, to lifelong learning, serving as a source for accurate, appropriate, and relevant information and services for educators and learners. NSDL's Core Integration (CI) team is a partnership between the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), Cornell University, and Columbia University, and bears responsibility for the technical infrastructure of the library, the administrative, organizational, and partnership functions, and relationships with the research, education, and publishing communities.

Formed to catalyze and support improvement in STEM education, NSDL is far more than a repository for educational resources. NSDL acts as a locus for innovation in science education applications and technical innovation in digital library development; and as an agent for leveraging partnerships among educational resource and service providers. NSDL's contributors and partners represent the best of public and private institutions including universities, museums, commercial publishers, government agencies, and professional societies. Key partnerships for NSDL are those designated as Pathway partners—offering discipline or audience-specific resource collections and services, and providing stewardship for the needs of their unique communities ([Pathways partners](#)), as well as other key member libraries and collections in other STEM disciplines.

The NSDL.org site offers audience-oriented views of library content for K-12 Teachers, Librarians, the NSDL Community, University Faculty, and tips and guidance for first-time users. NSDL contains over 500 unique collections of materials from NSDL-funded projects and other resource and data providers, with over 1.5 million individual records. A variety of links provide access to news and publications (e.g., NSDL's electronic newsletter, the [Whiteboard Report](#)), as well as useful community-based information (e.g., services, tools, documents, community events, and email lists).

The 10 NSDL Pathway partners include [AMSER](#), the Applied Math and Science Education Repository, focused on technical and community colleges needs; [BEN](#), the Biosciences Ed Network; [ComPADRE](#), offering digital resources for physics and astronomy education; [CSERD](#), the Computational Science Education Reference Desk, the [Engineering Pathway](#), providing engineering education resources for both K-12 and higher education the [Math Gateway](#), supporting undergraduate and high school mathematics; [MatDL](#), the Materials Science Digital Library Pathway; the [Middle School Portal](#), providing access to selected and enhanced science and math resources focused on the middle school level; and [Teachers' Domain](#), multimedia resources and professional development for K-12 science and math education. The newest Pathway, awarded in October 2006, is the *Chemical Education Digital Library (Chem DLib)*.