

NSDL:ASN

Achievement Standards Network

Project Overview

The *National Science Digital Library: Achievement Standards Network (NSDL:ASN)* is designed to help NSDL collection holders, researchers and service providers solve a critical problem facing consumers of educational resources, especially classroom teachers. Currently, NSDL resources cannot be reliably searched or retrieved according to the academic content standards of their own state. Further, if an NSDL resource is aligned to a specific set of academic content standards and then those standards are revised, the NSDL alignment becomes obsolete. This issue poses a significant impediment to the full impact and ongoing use of NSDL resources in the classroom.

The *NSDL:ASN* helps solve this problem by providing tools and databases that enable access to and interaction with the authoritative collection of learning and content standards from states and national content groups.

Collection Holders. Organizations that create educational resources and make them available to teachers and other end-users face many challenges in creating catalog and metadata records. These records are vital to providing the specific categories of information teachers are looking for when they search for and retrieve resources, and more than ever, teachers are looking for materials that have been aligned to their state standards. The *NSDL:ASN* provides collection holders with the tools and resources needed to include alignments in catalog and metadata records in open, interoperable ways. Moreover, the *NSDL:ASN* provides services that collection holders can use to cross-walk the standards of one state or organization to another.

Service Providers and Researchers. Organizations that provide services, applications, or portal access to digital collections, or who conduct research involving learning standards face their own set of challenges. Without an authoritative collection of state and national standards and agreement on the best way to represent them in metadata, basic research and application development can be expensive and in some cases nearly impossible. The *NSDL:ASN* provides the tools and services for NSDL researchers, service providers and application builders to expose and process learning standards information in catalog and metadata records in an open, extensible way. Further, the cross-walking capabilities that relate the standards of one state or organization to all the others provide new opportunities for faceted searching for service providers and new avenues of inquiry for basic and applied research.

The *NSDL:ASN* exposes both manual (web browser) and programmatic (web services) access through platform independent, interoperable and extensible services that support current technical standards and application profiles, including Dublin Core, GEM, IMS, IEEE-LOM, OAI-PMH and SIF (Schools Interoperability Framework).

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