
Project Summary

Collaborative Proposal: DLConnect: Connecting Underserved Teachers and Students with NSDL Learning Resources and Tools, a collaboration between Utah State University and Eastern Michigan University, focuses on NSDL dissemination within school settings through **usage development workshops** within the **services** track of the NSDL.

DLConnect will target underserved **middle level pre-service** and **in-service STEM teachers**, as well as **school library media specialists**. In addition, *DLConnect* activities will center on keystone NSDL projects particularly relevant to these user groups.

This three-year proposal consists of the following objectives:

- Design and implement an innovative, powerful, and adaptable workshop model;
- Use evaluation and research to demonstrate effectiveness on learning and teaching;
- Leverage connections for widespread dissemination;
- Establish a solid foundation for sustainability through partnerships and continued use.

Intellectual merit

DLConnect will provide critical data for NSDL development, assist in collaborations that will enhance individual digital library efforts, and add to the knowledge base on effective integration of educational technology in schools to promote student achievement. This proposal is focused on use by pragmatists (and not early innovators or adopters) in a way that highlights the utility and usability of the NSDL, its resources, and its services.

Through a focus on achieving the broad aims of the NSDL program accompanied by an innovative project design, the *DLConnect* brings both capacity for intellectual achievement and the generation of effective products.

We are uniquely positioned to conduct the proposed work for because we have significant historical involvement with the NSDL, existing relationships with other NSDL and Education and Human Resource (EHR) projects, backgrounds as instructional designers/technologists, researchers, and teacher educators, and previous successes in program development, implementation, and dissemination for widespread impact on teachers and students.

Broader impacts

Through a design-based program of workshop development and deployment, the project is expected to directly impact 250 middle schools and, through a well-developed scheme for dissemination and sustainability, teachers and schools nationwide. In addition to professional development models and implementation, *DLConnect* has a strong **evaluation** component to inform project development and plan **research** foundations for broader distribution. In this way, the project will contribute rich data for in-depth analyses of digital resource use in educational contexts. Beyond its immediate impacts on core partners and participating schools, project findings will be distributed through explicit **dissemination** activities to reach K-12 educators, public education consortia, university faculty, media specialists and digital library developers.