Combining Collections and Services in a Specialized Portal for Educators and Developers

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What is the Using Data in the Classroom Portal?

- **A site for educators** combining information on teaching, resource collections, and a discussion forum focused on how to effectively engage students in inquiry using data.
- **A site for developers** with information on how educators use data in their classrooms and laboratories, recommendations from faculty for new data access tools, and scenarios of how these tools might be used in the future.
- **A dynamically generated site** based in part on DLESE metadata records and NSDL communication portal services.
- **A summary of discussion** and resource collections from the NSDL CI sponsored workshop for faculty and developers on “Using Data in the Classroom” held April, 2002 at Carleton College, the 2002 DLESE Annual Meeting, and the 2002 NAGT/DLESE On the Cutting Edge workshop “Using Global Datasets in Teaching Earth Processes”.

How is the portal created?

**Resource lists** are based on DLESE metadata records that are a combination of records contained in the DLESE broad collection at the DLESE Program Center and those created in an instance of the DLESE Cataloging System housed at Carleton College. The SERC Library Resource Display System is used to extract relevant fields from the metadata records, add short descriptions, and generate lists. Resources were identified by workshop participants and organizers and by other interested individuals using on-line Contribute a Resource forms. The **discussion forum** uses list-server and wiki services from the NSDL communication portal.

Who is using the site?

- Average 90 hits per month
- List-server activity and resource contributions suggest that the majority of active participation is linked to workshops or presentations.
- The site is being used as a major resource for the upcoming 2002 NAGT/DLESE On the Cutting Edge workshop “Using Global Datasets in Teaching Earth Processes”.
- Feedback from NSDL developers on their use of the site for information or to communicate with potential users is needed.

What can you find there?

- **Information** on why and how educators are using data in their classrooms and labs across the STEM disciplines
- **Collections** of sites providing data access and tools
- data rich activities for class and lab
- pedagogical resources
- examples of how data is used in courses today
- scenarios of how data might be used in courses in the future
- A place for you to **contribute** to these collections
- **List-serve** discussion, archive, and summary
- **News** on related activities
- **Recommendations** from faculty and resource developers for future NSDL data tools
- **Information and results** from the NSDL Using Data in the Classroom workshop
- **Presentations** on Using Data in the Classroom

serc.carleton.edu/research_education/usingdata/index.html