

# OAI Data Provider



## Note to developers: OAI Data Provider End of Life

This OAI Data Provider has reached its End of Life.

NSDL metadata collections are now being hosted at ISKME's [OER Commons](#). Contact Michelle Brennan <[michelle@iskme.org](mailto:michelle@iskme.org)> for information about API access to NSDL metadata.

Please update your client implementations accordingly.

XML from the NSDL repository may be harvested using the [Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting \(OAI-PMH\)](#), which is a standardized protocol for transferring and sharing metadata across open repository systems.

## How to Harvest From NSDL

Access to the NSDL OAI data provider:

- Harvest using baseURL: <http://nsdl.org/oai>
- Use the [OAI Explorer page](#) to explore the data provider from a web browser

The NSDL OAI data provider has the following characteristics:

- The NSDL repository contains [collections of educational resources](#), [annotations](#), [paradata](#) (use data), and a collection of collection metadata (metadata about the collections). Each collection in the NSDL repository is made available as an [OAI set](#).
  - Sets/collections are added and removed from the repository occasionally (a few each quarter or so).
  - Collections of educational resource metadata make up the majority of the repository. All educational resource metadata sets/collections are available in [nsdl\\_dc](#) and [oai\\_dc](#) formats and some are also available in [lar](#) format.
  - The contents of some sets/collections change frequently (approximately monthly), while others remain relatively static.
  - No deduping is performed in the data provider. It is common to see multiple metadata records that describe the same resource URL, especially across different sets/collections.
  - [View the list of available OAI sets/collections](#) using the OAI ListSets request.
- XML formats that are available from the repository include:
  - [Educational resource metadata](#): All educational resource metadata are available in [nsdl\\_dc](#) and [oai\\_dc](#) formats and some are also available in [lar](#) format.
  - [Annotations](#): Available in [comm\\_anno](#) format.
  - [Paradata](#): Available in [comm\\_para](#) format.
  - [Collection metadata](#): Available in [dlese\\_collect](#) format. Within each [dlese\\_collect](#) record resides a nested `ncsCollectionRecord` element that contains detailed information about each NSDL collection. All collection metadata are grouped under `setSpec 'collect'`.
  - Additional XML formats may become available in the future.
  - [View the list of available XML formats and schemas](#) using the OAI ListMetadataFormats request.

## Tools for Harvesting

A number of open source tools are available for working with OAI-PMH:

- The [jOAI](#) tool may be used to harvest metadata to a file system.
- The [OAI tools page](#) lists additional tools that are available.

## OAI-PMH Documentation

To learn about the OAI Protocol for Metadata Harvesting, see the following:

- [OAI-PMH Documentation](#)

## Support

For questions and more information, please send your inquiry to NSDL via the [contact form](#)