

Search API



Note to developers: Search API End of Life

This Search API has reached End of Life.

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

Please update your client implementations accordingly.

The Search API allows developers to search for resources in the NSDL digital library and build customized search and browse interfaces for a variety of applications. Search queries operate over both the content of the resources and all related metadata including resource-level metadata, annotations, and use data/paradata.

The API is built on an index of terms, compiled and accessed using the [Lucene](#) search engine, and results are returned in ranked order by relevance. In cases where there are more than one record in the repository for a given resource (URL), the API automatically groups these together to form one result for each match (duplicate results are avoided). The API uses a [REST](#)-RPC hybrid approach to accept requests expressed as HTTP argument/value pairs and respond with structured data in [XML](#) or [JSON](#) format, allowing developers to embed and reuse NSDL resources using a wide range of technologies such as JavaScript, PHP and JSP.

The API is implemented with an instance of the the [Digital Discovery System \(DDS\)](#) repository search server.

What's Happening

The Search API is used to power the NSDL.org web site, NSDL partner sites, and supply resources to a number of other ed-tech applications. The API is the primary access point for resource metadata, annotations, use data/paradata, and collection metadata in the NSDL repository.

See it in Action

The API base URLs is:

- <http://nsdl.org/dds-search> - Provides normalized search that returns resource metadata in the [NSDL_DC](#) metadata format.

User Interfaces implemented with the API:

- [NSDL.org search](#) and [NSDL.org browse](#) - NSDL.org is implemented with the API

Get Involved

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

Documentation

- [Search API documentation](#) - Detailed Search API documentation.
- [Search API FAQ](#) - Frequently Asked Questions and answers
- [Faceted Search](#) - Details about how to perform faceted searches

NSDL Search Client

- [Download the NSDL Search Client](#) (download from SourceForge), a customizable HTML/JavaScript page that provides search over NSDL resources and collections. Use the client as a template to embed and customize NSDL search on any Web site.

Additional Reading

- [Representational state transfer \(REST\)](#) - Wikipedia article
- [A multi-tier architecture for building RESTful Web services](#) - IBM DeveloperWorks article
- [Build RESTful Web services and dynamic Web applications with the multi-tier architecture](#) - IBM DeveloperWorks article

See Related

- [Digital Discovery System \(DDS\)](#)