

# Technical Overview

The National Science Digital Library (NSDL) provides a suite of [APIs](#) for developers that include the [Search API](#), [Strand Map Service APIs](#), and an [OAI Data Provider](#). The APIs provide access to collections of educational resource metadata, annotations, and use data/paradata and to AAAS Benchmarks, Maps and visualizations.

NSDL also produces Open Source [Software products](#) that aid in indexing, creating, and consuming digital library collections and other content. These include the [Digital Collection System \(DCS\)](#), [jOAI](#), and [Digital Discovery System \(DDS\)](#).

## NSDL Technical Platform

The NSDL repository contains collections of resource metadata, annotations, use data/paradata, and a collection of collection metadata (metadata about the collections). Collections are ingested into the repository from partners via [OAI-PMH](#) or are managed directly through the [NSDL Collections System](#). Once in the repository, collections and records are made available through the [Search API](#) and the NSDL [OAI data provider](#) and are published to the [Learning Registry](#). In addition, the [Strand Map Service APIs](#) provide access to AAAS Benchmarks, Maps and visualizations. Developers can use the Search API, SMS APIs and OAI data provider to search and browse a wide range of educational resources and to build innovative applications that support teaching and learning. The diagram below shows an overview of the NSDL technical platform.

