How to Use NSDL in Five Minutes or Less

STEP 1

What do I do first?
Type NSDL.org into the address bar of your browser. You must be online to use NSDL.

Then I...?
Type in one or more words in the big search box on the homepage and use your mouse to click the search button (or hit the ‘Enter’ key on your keyboard).

But I can't think of the exact word. How can I look at some topics?
Skip to Step 4.

What am I looking at?
This is the Search Results page. It lists all of the resources that match your search word(s).
How do I pick something? Quickly.
Look at the title. Look at the short description.
Do they describe a resource you could use?

Yes, the title and short description describe a resource I could use, now what do I do?
Go to Step 3.

No, the title and short description do not describe what I'm looking for.
Review a few more search results from the list.
Still don't see what you want?
Skip to Step 4.

One of these looks ok, but I'm not sure.
Click "View all related information."
Skim the Description.
Scroll down and look in the left column "Resource Information: Complete Citation Data."
Look at "Intended Audience."
STEP 3

This resource looks useful. How do I get it?
Click on the title.

Search Results Page

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Resource Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant Identification</td>
<td>[text] [pdf]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Report</td>
<td>[text] [pdf]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fast Plants</td>
<td>[text] [pdf]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"All Related Information" Page

Title: Plant Report

Description: This printable plant report is designed to help students gather the information they need to identify specimens. The two-page PDF form asks for the form, reproductive status, plant abundance, and student to record their identification method/res.

Archives:
- Archive data not available. More

Resource Information:

Voila! The Plant Report


How do I use my resource?
Download it to your computer desktop. Make it part of a lesson. Make a lesson using the Instructional Architect tool: http://ia.usu.edu
STEP 4

From Step 1...
I can't think of the exact word to search for. How can I look at a topic?
Click on the Browse link in the column on the far left of the web page. ([http://nsdl.org/browse/index.php](http://nsdl.org/browse/index.php))
Click Browse by Topic, the first option on the page.
Select a topic area.
Review the Search Results page. See Step 2.

From Step 2...
Is there a way to change my search?
• Nothing on the search results page looks useful.
• I have too many search results.
• I want a resource for a particular age group.

Click on the Search Options link in the column on the far left of the web page. ([http://nsdl.org/search/index.php](http://nsdl.org/search/index.php))
Type in your search term or pick a new word(s) to search for.
Click in the boxes to specify a Grade Level and Resource Format.
Click Search.
Review the Search Results page. See Step 2.

I still can't find a useful resource.
Review the list of Suggested Resources from Project Tomorrow
Review the NSDL Help pages ([http://nsdl.org/help/](http://nsdl.org/help/))