

Title:

A GEM of a Resource: The Gateway to Educational Materials!

Authors:

Lead Author: Nancy Virgil Morgan, MLS.

R. David Lankes, PhD.

Marilyn Tickner

Affiliation:

Nancy V. Morgan is The Gateway to Educational Materials (GEM) Project Coordinator.

R.David Lankes is the Director of the Information Institute of Syracuse (IIS) and an Assistant Professor at Syracuse University's School of Information Studies. The IIS houses the Gateway to Educational Materials (GEM) Project.

Marilyn Tickner is The Gateway to Educational Materials (GEM) Project Representative.

Address for all:

Information Institute of Syracuse

GEM Project

Syracuse University

621 Skytop Road, Suite 160

Syracuse, NY 13244-5290

E-mail Addresses:

“Nancy V. Morgan” nmorgan@geminfo.org

“R. David Lankes” rdlankes@ERICIR.SYR.EDU

“Marilyn Tickner” geminfo@geminfo.org

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Abstract:

This session will describe the background, research foundations, and future efforts of the Gateway to Educational Materials (GEM) Project <www.geminfo.org>. GEM is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. GEM's goal is to provide efficient and effective access to collections of educational materials distributed across the Internet, including those available from museum web sites.

It has long been recognized that traditional searching technologies do not meet the needs of users, particularly when they are searching for materials in distributed collections, such as those found on the Internet. GEM solves this resource discovery problem through the use of meta-data. Based on research on how teachers look for educational resources, GEM developed a set of 23 elements, using the Dublin Core as a base referent.

Software developed by GEM allows users to create meta-data records that describe and point to the education resources. These records are then collected together at a central location, forming The Gateway <www.thegateway.org>. By searching or browsing this catalog of meta-data records, educators can find resources more efficiently and with more precision.

This session will familiarize attendees with the GEM Project, The Gateway to Educational Materials, and the technologies that are central to the project.

GEM Bookmarks will be available for distribution:

<http://www.geminfo.org/Consortium/bookmarks.html>

On-line copies of the presentation materials will also be made available.

For more information:

Marilyn Tickner, GEM Representative <geminfo@geminfo.org>
Corresponding Author

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Marilyn Tickner
GEM Project Representative
Tel: (315) 443-3640
Project Site: <http://www.geminfo.org/>

Search Engine: <http://www.thegateway.org>
Toll Free: 1-(800) 464-9107
Fax: (315) 443-5448