Starting Point: Linking Pedagogy, Resources and Community Interaction to Support Entry-Level Undergraduate Geoscience Education

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The Starting Point project is exploring the ability of on-line resources to catalyze improvements in undergraduate teaching. Our goal is to develop a resource that intimately integrates pedagogy with teaching resources and fully supports a virtual community of educators.

Technology Supporting Development
• Exploits DLESE Cataloging System and OAI protocols for resource management and sharing
• Enables tracking and cross-referencing of resource links
• Enables distributed portal authoring and community contribution

Lessons Learned for NSDL
• Specialized portals can provide solutions for specific user groups
• DL technology enables meta-data sharing that supports rapid development of specialized portals.
• Collaboration on evaluation studies will help our project.

Teaching Entry-Level Geoscience
Launched, July 2003

• The Starting Point site provides concrete pedagogic advice for faculty teaching entry-level geoscience courses that can be discovery by teaching method or geoscience topic.

• Teaching methods are outlined from a Geoscience perspective with a discussion of how and why to use. Topics include: Socratic Questioning, Teaching with Models, and Investigative Cases.

• Thirty-five classroom ready examples demonstrate the use of methods for teaching the full spectrum of entry-level geoscience topics.

Initiating Evaluation Studies
• Over 3600 visitors since launch with average session of 2.5 page views

• Site walkthroughs indicate faculty are engaged by geoscience examples and excited by site; all reviewers bookmarked site.

• Faculty interviews indicate strong use of Google for finding information and images on the web.

http://serc.carleton.edu/introgeo/