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P r e s e n t a t i o n

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**ABSTRACT:** Introduction to the Gateway to Educational Materials.

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GEM

# Welcome

the gateway to  
educational materials<sup>sm</sup>



# Introduction to the Gateway

# GEM


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- **Sponsored by U.S. Department of Education**
- **Syracuse University's Information Institute of Syracuse**
- **University of Washington's Information School**

# Education Digital Library Initiative

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- Initiative to provide the education community:
    - Knowledge
    - Tools
    - Services
    - Resources
  - The Gateway to Educational Materials and
  - The Virtual Reference Desk

# GEM is...

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- **Consortium:** 600+ member organizations
- **The Gateway:** catalog of Consortium member educational resources
- **Metadata:** for describing educational resources
- **Tools:** to implement GEM
- **Research:** to provide new and innovative services to educators.
- **An Approach to Education Information**

# GEM Background

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- Began in 1996
  - 16 Stakeholders at initial meeting
  - 800 records in The Gateway (1998)
- Tremendous growth
  - 600+ Consortium Members
  - 32,000+ records in The Gateway
- Increasing Influence
  - Standards/metadata bodies (DC, IMS, IEEE)
  - Large-Scale Initiatives (NSF's NSDL, EdNA)

# GEM Consortium

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- Collection Holders and Individual Collection Members:  
Organizations and individuals who have collections of educational materials that are or will be cataloged and entered into The Gateway.

- User Groups:  
Organizations who are users of either the GEM Metadata Profile and/or The Gateway, and support the goals and mission of the GEM Project.

# GEM Metadata

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- Descriptive Metadata for education resources
- Extends and qualifies Dublin Core metadata with GEM elements and qualifiers

# GEM's Dublin Core



- Dublin Core is a widely implemented officially recognized standard
  - ANSI standard Z39.85-2001
- GEM is an extension of the Dublin Core for education
  - Active in the Dublin Core Community:
    - Co-Chair the DC Education Working Group
    - Sponsor and help organize the annual conference

# GEM Metadata

- Descriptive Metadata for education resources
- Extends and qualifies Dublin Core metadata with GEM elements and qualifiers
- Provides on-target, efficient searching and browsing

# Using GEM...

- Member presentations:
  - PBS TeacherSource
  - Washington Digital Learning Commons
  - Michigan Teachers Network
  - Illinois Office of Educational Services
  - JES&Co - ASAS
- Many Others

# GEM Research

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- Metadata generation, sharing, acquisition & management
  - GEMCat 4.0: RDF metadata generator/editor
  - Harvesting and metadata sharing (Open Archives Initiative)
  - Registries and Registry Services
- Linking learning objects with academic standards
- cross domain searching and metadata interoperability
- Automatic metadata generation using Natural Language Processing techniques

# GEM Tools & Services

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- Next generation Gateway
  - New services and tools for teachers and
- ASAS
- GEMCat4
- Metadata generation assistance

# Participating in GEM



- Ranges from linking to the Gateway to implementation of search engine using GEM metadata

# GEM Benefits

- Help users find your resources
- Bring quality resources to your audience through The Gateway
- New services next generation Gateway – opportunities to promote your events and new resources.
- Cataloging service and advice- GEM metadata generation
- Technical advice –implementation of GEM standard in applications
- R&D – early access to cutting edge tools

# How to Join in GEM

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- Contact by GEM Representative
- Apply for membership (online form)
- Evaluation process (accept, more info, reject)
- Welcome packet (press kit, brochures, bookmarks)
- Collections: information on how to get your resources into The Gateway
- User Groups: information on promotional brochures, linking to The Gateway, technical advice on GEM implementations



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# Questions?