

## **The National Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology Education Digital Library (NSDL) Program**

Building on work supported under the multi-agency Digital Libraries Initiative, this new National Science Foundation (NSF) program aims to found a national digital library constituting an online network of learning environments and resources for science, mathematics, engineering, and technology (SMET) education at all levels. The program has completed the review of proposals submitted in response to its inaugural program solicitation released earlier this year. NSF expects to make a formal announcement of awards in the late summer or early fall. The program accepts proposals in four tracks: (1) Core Integration System projects are expected to focus on the coordination and management of the library's core collections and services and to develop the library's central portal. (2) Collections projects are expected to aggregate and manage a subset of the library's content within a coherent theme or specialty. (3) Services projects are expected to develop services that support users, collection providers, and the Core Integration System and which enhance the impact, efficiency, and value of the library. (4) Targeted Research projects are expected to explore specific topics that have immediate applicability to one of the other three tracks. The proposal deadline for next year's funding cycle is expected to be in mid-April, 2001. More information about the program including links to background reports and descriptions of related projects may be found at <http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/EHR/DUE/programs/nsdl>. The current program solicitation may be obtained at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf0044>, and is expected to be updated in the fall of 2000.

Brief biographical sketch:

Lee L. Zia divides his time as a Program Director in the NSF Division of Undergraduate Education (Lead Program Director for the NSDL Program) and the NSF Division of Research, Evaluation, and Communication (Research on Learning and Education Program). During the calendar years 1995 and 1996 he was a "rotator" with the Division of Undergraduate Education where he worked on a variety of programs in the mathematical sciences and in interdisciplinary areas. Among other activities he was heavily involved in information technology issues and was part of a small group of staff who began the early internal discussions about the feasibility of a digital library for education program. His academic background is in applied mathematics and prior to returning recently to NSF in a permanent capacity he was a faculty member at the University of New Hampshire.