The National Gallery of the Spoken Word (NGSW) is developing an on-line repository of spoken word collections. To do so, project is researching a number of technical and educational issues. The project team drawing on people from the humanities, library science, engineering and education) is working on creating a distributed system architecture based on the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) as well as best practices for watermarking, digitizing, and preserving spoken word resources as well as metadata schemas and interface design. While a number of search techniques work well for text, search techniques for very-large-scale databases do not yet exist for spoken materials. Participants in this project include researchers who are recognized leaders in the development of algorithms for searching using acoustic and linguistic models. In addition, the NGSW is developing an educator’s forum to establish best practices with historical audio on the web. The goal is to establish a set of activities and tools that will make digital audio repositories useful to students, educators and the curious public.