Shorter product design cycles start at the very beginning. Creating the next great product depends on having the right materials — like ingredients and formulations for food and cosmetics companies, or fabrics for apparel manufacturers — and a design team that knows how to use them.

Working with materials libraries in a typical large company requires using a range of specialized file types and applications. Teams working to scan and test materials send information on to downstream teams working in different, disconnected silos.

When Nuxeo talked to large consumer goods companies about this segment of the product creative lifecycle, we heard frustration with visibility into multiple applications and downstream demands:

- At one major cosmetics manufacturer, product design faced frequent delays from designers who referenced materials and ingredients that were no longer available. With little visibility into changes to the materials library, designers were also largely unaware of new materials and ingredients that could be added to their creative palette.

- At an accessories and footwear company, textures and material test data couldn’t easily be seen next to information about suppliers, availability, and colors, leading to time-consuming manual information gathering.

- At an apparel company, designers had to send a request to the materials team prior to using material in a design. Designers could only approve a design after a swatch was ordered, then tiled to a larger square. Result: a longer design process that disincentivized experimentation.
The future of materials libraries

Nuxeo offers unlimited flexibility for syncing and developing different types of content in materials libraries. From 2D images to 3D renderings and texture scans, Nuxeo can bring together content that is usually stored and viewed separately.

Nuxeo also supports cataloging, using, and modifying compound files — for instance, a materials reference object containing a 3D rendering, image files, and examples of the material being used in previous designs could be created. These compound files can easily be shared with colleagues or external vendors to display materials in context.

With full information on current and historic materials used in design (especially when connected to downstream processes to understand sales performance), manufacturers can guide strategic R&D into new materials or formulations based on complete, connected information.

Forward-looking manufacturers also need a scalable, sustainable approach to maximizing productivity downstream when materials libraries are used by designers. Nuxeo empowers this approach by creating a digital design environment where designers have full visibility to updated materials information from every internal or external location where it exists, all in the context of their design tools.

Where can Nuxeo take you?

The future of materials libraries is digital, available, easy to modify, and with full visibility into all your disconnected systems. If the status quo of your materials library is holding you back from being the fiercest competitor you can be, we need to talk — because it doesn’t have to be this way.

To learn more about how Nuxeo can revolutionize your materials library and accelerate product development, visit www.nuxeo.com/pam.