



INTERSECT

NCW Beadle Herbarium Project

Web based herbarium system

Overview

The aim of this project is to create a web based herbarium system to manage the lifecycle of plant specimens at the University of New England's NCW Beadle Herbarium.

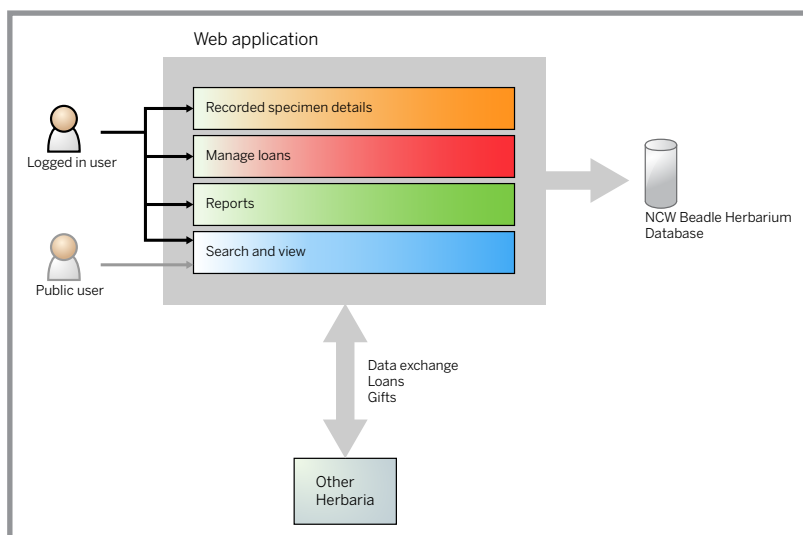
Background

The NCW Beadle Herbarium collection contains approximately 80,000 plant specimens. The database that manages this collection is used by the staff of the herbarium as well as some students at the university. Currently it can only be used by a single user at a time and the data cannot be shared with the wider research community.

Aims

Upgrading the existing database to a web based relational database will provide easy access to multiple users, with defined privileges, both on and off campus. Public users will be able to search and view public data, and authorised users will be able to edit data.

The risk of accidental data loss will be eliminated and data errors will be reduced with look up tables and authoritative name libraries. The risk of incorrect data being entered will be reduced with a user-friendly interface for data entry, including auto complete



functions. The arduous process of printing labels will be replaced with a simpler faster system.

The new database will also allow for linking to images in other web based database as well as the ability to enter latitude-longitude data and output the data in the range of required formats.

Importantly, the new database will make the NCW Beadle Herbarium more discoverable.

The new system will be hosted by Intersect.

This project is synergistic with the Entree project [link to Entree], an Intersect innovation project. The Entree project is undertaking to make the contents of the Australian Plant DNA Bank at Southern

Cross University, the NCW Beadle Herbarium at the University of New England and the Janet Cosh Herbarium at the University of Wollongong available to the Atlas of Living Australia and Australia's Virtual Herbarium so that their contents will be more widely available and discoverable.

The technology developed for the NCW Beadle Herbarium project provides a model for other herbaria wanting to solve similar problems.

Project Details

Start Date: August 2010

End Date: Q4 2010

Client: University of New England

Related Links:

<http://www.une.edu.au/herbarium/>

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