

Collaborative Platform for Multicultural Herbal Information

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Traditional knowledge about herbal medicine can be contributed from several cultures. With conventional techniques, it is hard to find a way in which experts can build a self-sustainable community for exchanging their knowledge. To alleviate the problem of gathering intellectual herbal information based on different cultures, the Knowledge Unifying Initiator for Herbal Information (KUIHerb) is used as a platform for building a web community for collecting the intercultural herbal knowledge. KUIHerb provides a capability for the expression of information about local names, parts used, indications, methods for preparation and toxicity. In cases where multiple opinions are provided, the popular vote will select the most preferable term, used in the community. Herb identification, herbal vocabulary, a list of experts in herbal medicine and multicultural knowledge can be collected from this system. Several applications can be applied, for example, a mobile application for herb identification, a supplement for learning herbal medicine as well as an application for identification of herbal products by DNA barcode.

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