Chinese Medicine Digital Project
--- An Innovative Tool for Teaching and Learning

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What Is
Chinese Medicine Digital Project
Introduction

- Chinese Medicine Digital Project is collaborative initiative
- Done by a multidisciplinary team from School of Chinese Medicine and the University Library
- Team members include Chinese medicine subject experts, librarians and IT expert
- Librarians worked with different subject experts when developing different subject databases.
- The Project is supported by University Teaching Development Grants (TDG) and financial support from SCM and University Library
Chinese Medicine Project aims to:

- Support teaching & learning
- Advocate open access
- Promote the popularization of Chinese Medicine
Completed Databases

- All databases are open-access online to the world
- The first Hong Kong-developed CM series of database
- Contain most common used materials in CM practice
- Searchable for all description and images
- Serve as an important e-learning tools for CM subject courses
- Help student’s learning in-class and after-class
- Promote CM popularization and internationalization
Database Feature

- Beautiful interface
- Clear and vivid images
- Comprehensive collection
- Professional authenticated data
- Detailed annotation and description
- Powerful easy-to-used search function
- Data Link across the different databases
- Dynamic trace and display of usage statistics
Completed Databases

- **Chinese Medicine Specimen Database** (CMSD)
- Officially Launched in 2007
- 686 kinds of specimen displayed in CM Specimen Centre
- Searchable for all description and images of exhibits
- Help student learn variety, authenticity, and use of CM
Completed Databases

Medicinal Plant Images Database (MPID)

Chinese version
Lunched in 2009

Bilingual version
Lunched 2012
Completed Databases

Medicinal Plant Images Database (MPID)

- Chinese version Lunched in 2009
- Bilingual version Lunched in 2012
- Contain 1160 commonly used species of medicinal plant
- Searchable for both Chinese and English contents
- Serve as an important e-learning tool for the subject course of Medicinal Botany
Completed Databases

- **Chinese Medicinal Material Images Database** (Chinese Ver.)
  - Launched in May 2013
  - Contains 420 common used crude drugs
  - Has description and annotated photos.
  - Serve as an essential e-learning tool for the subject course of *Authentication of Chinese Materia Medica*
Example of MPID

Medicinal plan
The Database was
with the aim of pr
c were systematically
The database will f
a user friendly and
Databases in Progress

Phytochemical Images Database (PID)
Future Development

- Add additional species and related data and photos
- Translate the content to English to become a bilingual version
- Develop Phytochemical Images Database
- Develop Chinese Medicine Formulae Database
- Build DataLink across the databases.
DataLink
DataLink connects the processed herb in CMMID with its ecological plant in MPID.

Helps students to associate the knowledge acquired across two required subject courses *Medicinal Botany* and *Authentication of Chinese Materia Medica*. 
How to
Support Teaching and Learning
Teaching Support (1)

- Play pivotal role in classroom teaching
- Enhanced the teaching pedagogy
  - Gave instructor more flexibility in instant online demonstration
  - Easy to compare CM morphology and clinical indications
  - Give options to insert hyperlink in the PPT
Teaching Support (2)

- **Activate class atmosphere** and student interest when instant demo available.
- **Save instructor time** for digging out the photos and description from their personal collection.
- **Provide sustainable and recurrent benefits each year** for instructors to do classroom demonstration.
Learning Support

- **An essential e-learning tools** in classroom, self-study after class, and life-long learning.

- **Make visualized comparison easily** among different plants and herbs. Inspire students’ thinking and enhance their memory.

- Master the subject knowledge **in both Chinese and English languages** via bilingual database.

- **DataLink** interactively links knowledge acquired across subject courses, such as *Medicinal Botany*, and *Authentication of Chinese Materia Medic*

- **Provide 24x7 learning environment**. CM Digital Project can cater different e-learning styles. Be able to use it anywhere and anytime.

- **Run on smart phone**, enable the students to use it during field trip or in laboratory for effective learning.
World-wide User Support

- **Open access** to international instructors, students and CM practitioners
- **Promote timely and cost-effective collaboration** for scholarly research.
- **Bilingual database** benefit to all non-Chinese speaking learners worldwide.
- Facilitate the dissemination of CM knowledge to the world
The project shows the knowledge and expertise of a multi-disciplinary team.

The subject professor provides scientific data to assure the dataset quality.

The librarians use the skill in information management to build a powerful search engine and present quality information in an organized way.
Advocate the advantages of open access of CM digital project and make the knowledge widely available.

- All completed databases are open access to all.
- Promotes timely and cost-effective collaboration, information exchange,
- Facilitates CM popularization and internationalization
High Usage

Usage recorded since Google analytics installed in June 2011

- 177,616 people from 167 Countries / Territories visited MPID and viewed 1,101,204 pages,

- 48,242 people from 134 Countries / Territories visited CMSD and viewed 182,236 pages.

- 6,806 people from 36 Countries / Territories visited CMMID and viewed 73,101 pages Since Apr. 2013.
The Project received 2012 American Library Association (ALA) Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library award.

We adopt innovative approach to support teaching, learning and research, promote open access of Chinese Medicine resources to the general community through presenting the best knowledge and quality of information.
Why the Project is Innovative
Innovative Summary

- The first series of open-access Chinese medicine online tools developed in Hong Kong
- Essential e-learning tools for instructors and students to enhance their teaching and learning pedagogy
- DataLink not only mutually links the related information across the databases, but also link the knowledge acquired across subject courses for students.
- This e-service incorporated the knowledge from subject professors with information management skill from librarians
- High usage speaks the e-service loved by our user.
Thank You!