

Progress Report CF 2011-110

The Western Australian Herbarium's specimen database

Plant Science and Herbarium

Project Core Team

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| Project Team | granted |
| Program Leader | granted |
| Directorate | granted |

The Western Australian Herbarium's specimen database

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Context

The Western Australian Herbarium's specimen database (WAHerb) allows staff at the herbarium to manage and maintain the herbarium's collections, and provides core data on the distribution, ecology and morphology of all taxa for Parks and Wildlife and the community, through the FloraBase and NatureMap websites. Data from the specimen database is provided to researchers, consultants and community members on request, and to the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) on a regular basis.

Aims

Capture, maintain and validate spatial, phenological, population and habitat data for all the herbarium's collections, enabling curation of the collection and providing core data for FloraBase and Parks and Wildlife decision support systems and research.

Progress

- 8078 records were added to the specimen database, including 709 Priority Flora and 116 Threatened Flora.
- 27 requests for specimen data (species lists and label data) were processed for Parks and Wildlife officers, researchers and the public.
- 30590 specimen records were edited during this period as part of activities aimed at keeping the collection scientifically valid and up-to-date.

Management implications

WAHerb represents the most comprehensive database on Western Australian plants available. This provides a source of information that managers can use for updates on biodiversity or conservation status, plant identification, clarification of plants in an area, and identification of knowledge gaps.

Future directions

Editing will continue on the WAHerb database to maintain its currency with the herbarium collections, including checking the accuracy of existing records.