

## Poster

### **A Model of Ethnobotanical Databases for Tribal Communities**

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**Introduction.** With a blending of Western Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge 177 plants used historically by the Winnebago tribe have been identified to provide a tool for sustaining tribal communities. The Winnebago Ethnobotany Project is a model of an ethnobotanical database that can be used by tribal communities to store information necessary when making decisions on land management and economic development. This database can also be used in tribal language preservation programs.

**Objectives.** Having up-to-date taxonomy, ethnobotanical uses, and plant locations provided in the database will be useful to the Winnebago and other tribal communities in their efforts to: utilize their natural resources with responsible and respectable methods, and restore their cultural ways.

**Methods.** Using the Winnebago Ethnobotany Project as a model, other tribes can organize their own databases by using the following: published ethnobotanical surveys from the past, information shared by the Elders and other plant-knowledgeable people, the current, accepted taxonomy, and global positioning system units for plant locations.

**Results.** We have successfully created a database model for combining Western Science and historical ethnobotanical information related to the Winnebago people.

**Conclusion.** The Winnebago Ethnobotany Project model has provided a tool for the subsistence of tribal communities by promoting: the use of plants for medicinal gardens, orchards, building materials, the use of plants for common ailments, and restoration efforts to protect ecosystems within reservation boundaries.

Keywords: Ethnobotanical surveys

#### Selected References

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