Static to Dynamic:
Growing a Wildflower Web Site

http://www.kswildflower.org

Colorado State University Libraries
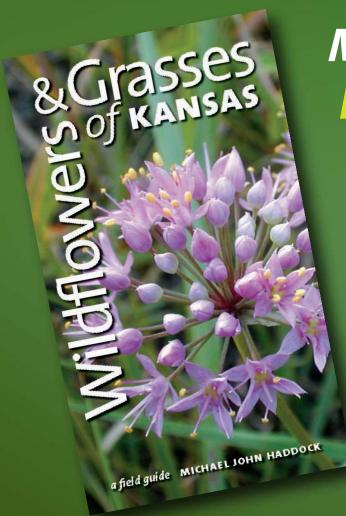
K-STATE LIBRARIES

About the Site

Kansas Wildflowers and Grasses, one of four Kansas State University AgNIC sites, began in 1996 and has been considerably enlarged over a twelve year period. The site contains information with more than 2530 identification photos for 534 species of forbs, grasses, sedges, rushes, and woody plants that grow in Kansas.

About the Creators

Professor **Mike Haddock** is Agriculture Librarian and Chair of the Sciences Department at K-State Libraries.

Mike is the author of *Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas: A Field Guide*, a book that was published by the University Press of Kansas in 2005. The book was selected as a "2006 Kansas Notable Book" by the Kansas Center for the Book at the State Library of Kansas. Both this web site and the book are cited online in the Bibliography and Related Links section of *National Geographic's* April 2007 feature on the Flint Hills of Kansas.
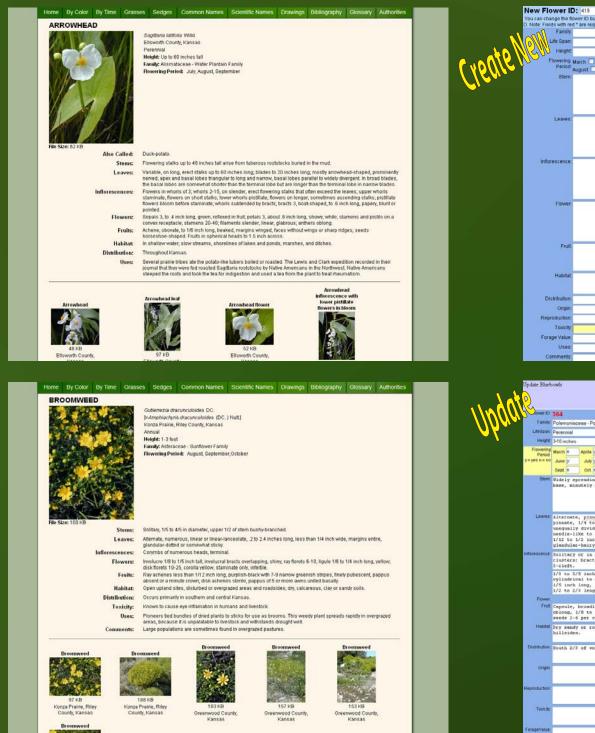
Yongli Zhou is the Digital Repositories Librarian at Colorado State University Libraries. She worked at K-State Libraries as a resident librarian. She redesigned and coded the new web site.

Why Redesign the Site?

- A new look
- Portable
- Consistent metadata display
- Easy-to-update web interface

How the site works?

1. The database was built using phpMyAdmin. Data may be added using either phpMyAdmin or custom-built input forms.

2. MySQL is used to build queries and PHP is used for the display of retrieved information. Macromedia Dreamweaver was used to generate much of the MySQL and PHP code.

3. Some of the more complicated display required hard coding. (e.g. Authority display and the Wildflowers Listed by Time of Flowering page.)

The common name and scientific name tables automatically generate the respective index pages.

common names

scientific names

authority

flower

images

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Software & Technologies

* phpMyAdmin was used to create the database and to insert, modify, and delete data without programming in MySQL

* Dreamweaver was used to build basic dynamic pages coded in html, Javascript, PHP and MySQL.

* Photoshop was used to modify and batch convert the images, and to construct the web site layout

* Flash was used for the animated movie on the front page which adds graphic appeal