



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR INFORMATION:

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August 14, 2003

NSF Supports NCSU Wood Anatomy Database Project with \$270,000

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has granted \$270,000 to NC State University to develop **InsideWood**, an extensive, Internet-accessible wood anatomy research database. The funding for **InsideWood** covers work at the NCSU Libraries and the College of Natural Resources over a two-year time span.

Elisabeth Wheeler, NCSU professor emeritus of wood and paper science; Deborah Westmoreland, an NCSU librarian with the Digital Library Initiatives Department; and Kathy Brown, assistant director of Planning and Research at the NCSU Libraries, are the project's three principal investigators.

InsideWood will build on existing databases, specimen collections, and photographic images at NC State and other institutions. The wood collection at NC State is the largest in the

southeastern United States, outside of the Smithsonian Institution. In all, NC State holds 6,916 database records covering extant and fossil angiosperms, extant conifers, and hardwood fibers (these records are available on computer diskette but not over the Internet), 31,919 wood samples, 4,000 microscope slides, and 4,050 photomicrographs collected over the past 114 years. Project researchers will create a Web site with nonexclusive, open architecture to allow for long-term sustainability of the databases for wood identification.

A key objective of the project is to integrate information held at NC State with the Wood Uses database of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, U.K. Other databases from other sources will also be added. The final product will be a unique Web resource with information organized according to the International Association of Wood Anatomists



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List of Features for Hardwood Identification. By the end of the project, researchers, educators, and professionals in the life sciences will have a powerful Internet-accessible wood identification reference tool in addition to a rich source of data for a wide variety of wood research studies.

The NCSU Libraries offers leading-edge resources and services from its central library, the

D. H. Hill Library, and four branch libraries. In all, the Libraries has a collection of more than 3.1 million volumes, nearly 53,000 print and electronic serials, and hundreds of databases, with emphasis on science, engineering, and technology. For full information, visit <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu>.

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