Virtual Herbarium

I) A virtual herbarium is a herbarium in a digitized form. It concerns a collection scans and resulting of digital images of preserved plants or plant parts.

II) Apart from scanned images of the herbarium specimens, the label data on each species include all information about the herbarium specimen such as family, genus, species, author citation, sub-species, variety (if any), collector, collection number, collection date, herbarium region, localities, plant description, habitat and comments (if any) are available.

III) There are digital herbaria that are not suitable for internet access because of the high resolution of large file sizes (several hundred megabytes per file).

IV) The standard hardware used for herbarium specimen imaging is the "**HerbScan**" scanner

V) Virtual herbaria can also be used to increase public awareness of herbaria. Some herbaria make their specimen databases publicly available on the Internet. Digital images of specimens can be added to these databases to allow the public to further engage with the material.

E-flora

i) The electronic flora (**E-flora)** is an online resource which provides information about all plant species of a given geographic area.

ii) Its gives information about flowering season, fruiting season and distribution for the given geographic area.

iii) It also provides details on rare and endemic species of that area.

iv) Most importantly, it provides identification keys, or partial identification keys, to the plants described.

v) Example: "**e-flora China**".