The Nested Doll Principle of Educational Laboratory Niche Website Design

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There is a strong need to have a flexible educational laboratory tool in an easily accessible format that will facilitate the exchange of experience and opinions. Educational laboratory niche websites can be a solution to address this need. This poster presents practical guidelines on how to develop and use individual and collective laboratory niche websites. While following the general pattern of a niche website development, the creation of laboratory website has some particularities. The "Nested Doll" principle: place one object inside another, making one part inserted through an opening in the other when each of them is an object on its own (for example, measuring cups and spoons) adequately reflect the methodological pattern in laboratory niche website. The niche website entitled "Grossing Technology in Surgical Pathology" (www.grossing-technology.com), which was created in 2002, will be presented in this poster as an example. For the sake of presentation, an example, such as "Matryoshka", the Russian nested doll, a set of wooden dolls with successively smaller size placed one inside the other, can be loosely applied to the composition of the pages, as well to some degree to the structure of the entire website. Modern technology, for example WordPress, rendered website development easier, even without or with minimal help of a webmaster. WordPress software provides also an opportunity to combine relatively static regular website (Pages) with a dynamic blog (Posts) that makes a niche website a viable educational platform. Cloud computing opens the opportunity to develop methodology-oriented portals consisting of individual or collective niche websites. A methodology portal hosted by a professional laboratory organization such as ASCP can provide a platform to facilitate discussions and enable the implementation of a variety of laboratory methodologies.

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