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Dietary supplements are now very popular products and their vast health claims need to be substantiated. From database searching, there was no database which provided exhaustive and comprehensive scientific information concerning dietary supplements. The purpose of this study, therefore, was to design a dietary supplement database program to form a scientific-based database regarding fish oil, evening primrose oil, lecithin, vitamin E, garlic, glucomannan and shark cartilage. The information was arranged in two pages, the main and monograph pages. The main page consisted of overview or general information of dietary supplements and summary of main topics. The monograph page consisted of general information of the individual dietary supplement, effects/claims, adverse effects, interactions, special precautions, contraindications, commercial products, editorial conclusion and references.

Thirty subjects completed the database evaluation by answering the questionnaire after testing the program. A five-point scale (5 = wholly agree; 4 = mostly agree; 3 = partially agree; 2 = unsure; 1 = disagree) was used to evaluate three criteria : quality of information, currency of information and program usability or layout. Mean scores of quality of information, currency of information and program usability or layout were 3.91 ± 0.08 , 3.77 ± 1.04 and 3.36 ± 0.23 , respectively. The results showed that the subjects had positive attitude toward the database. Comments were given concerning content and graphics. It can be concluded that this database has the potential to be used as a source of scientifically-based information about dietary supplements.