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Project: Personal Information Management in a Learning Context

What?
- Explore student interaction with PIM technology that is designed to help them manage course-related information.
- Identify contextual elements and system features that aid reminding.
- Can automatic capture of contextual elements assist reminding?

Why?
- To get a better understanding of how people use information in the context of their work.
- To improve both PIM and educational technologies.
- We may learn something about how to stimulate critical thinking and improve learning.

How?
- Students will use M^2 hardware and MyLifeBits software in the context of a botany class to document their field experiences.
- Field observations, structured tasks, follow-up questions and interviews will assess ability to recall events, achieve objectives, and reflect on experiences compared with students who do not have the technology.

Results so far:
- Data from the pilot support the concept, but reveal limitations of the technology (quality of images, lack of view finder in camera)
- Familiar look of aspects of the software (search box, thumbnail views) reduces the learning curve
- System is “helpful in remembering information and experiences in the field”

M2 and local flora in MyLifeBits: