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(54) **DOCUMENT COLLABORATION SUITE USING A COMMON DATABASE**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method is provided for document collaboration between a managing author using a document management system (DMS), and one or more contributing authors. The system includes: a common storage area coupled to a plurality of user computer systems via a communications network; manager software stored on a first user computer system, where the manager software exclusively controls change to a document stored in the common storage area; and contributor software stored on a second user computer system, where the contributor software provides a proposed change to a replica of the document stored in the common storage area.

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