



## Simple, effective on-line group collaboration tool for academics and students



### **Virtual Research Environment (Sakai-VRE)**

The Monash Sakai-VRE is a very simple to use on-line collaboration portal enabling researchers from within a group at Monash, or spread throughout the world, to communicate and collaborate with ease.

The Sakai-VRE system incorporates a full range of applications designed to speed up and enhance group collaboration:

- Editable web spaces, discussion forums, secure document and data sharing, private/personal work areas,

chat rooms, bulk email, private messaging, RSS feeds and access to large data storage areas are all included. Users may participate in one or several different research group work spaces, and can create new work spaces.

To use simply login using your Monash authcate ID and password at: <https://sakai-vre.its.monash.edu.au>

For any further information on this system contact the Monash e-Research Centre (MeRC).

Enquiries: [merc@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:merc@adm.monash.edu.au)

## About Sakai - VRE

Monash currently has over 700 regular users of Sakai-VRE....and the list grows daily.

Sakai has been specifically designed by a not for profit corporation in the United States to meet the communication requirements of higher education institutions. In particular, for the collaborative needs of academics and students.



## Some Example Applications

- Supervision of PhD Candidates: A student's thesis and other work-in-progress can be stored electronically on Sakai-VRE. Individuals, or entire panels, can provide their comments and ideas, from anywhere in the world.
  - Preparation of Research Grant Applications: Researchers can directly contribute and make changes to a document - directly storing the different versions within the simple folder system.
  - Research Collaboration between Scholars: Document sharing, web pages and the mix of various communication tools - including some private and others shared - all make local and international research collaboration able to be centralised from your 'personal' Sakai area.
- Clearly labelled and shared 'Work Sites' can also prevent the traditional deluge of emails, or the frustrating 'black hole' effect when large data sets are sent by email.
- Links and access to specialised research tools/software can also be added to Work Sites.

- Management of Research Project Teams: It is very simple to setup a number of Groups (which each have access rights for certain individuals). It is also very easy to add new Group members. - Membership to particular Groups in effect creates a structured form of regular communication between certain individuals.
- Virtual or one-off 'think tanks' can quickly be created to record on-going discussions and ideas: These could be; a select group of academics and HDR students; intra-faculty; intra-University or opened up to the wider community. Such virtual think tanks can be invaluable for investigating unusual, or previously unthought of, areas to research.
- Collaboration with external experts for document proposals: Special interest groups; business etc. All of these people can be given access to enter the system to add real-time/up-to-minute information towards a University or community proposal which might have a strict deadline. (This is of particular importance to faculties whose researchers 'frequently' have significant reach and impact upon the wider community.)



## In Summary

The key to Sakai-VRE's collaborative functionality is the ability for Monash staff and HDR students to create any number of collaborative Work Sites and Groups, the ability to easily add external collaborators to Work Sites, and to automatically create accounts for new users.

## Getting Started

All Monash staff and students can access Sakai by logging in using their Monash authcate ID and password at url:

<https://sakai-vre.its.monash.edu.au/portal>

External users can create their own accounts.

## Video Support

Our videos can help walk you through the start-up process. Access our videos from the Monash e-Research Centre web pages at:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/eresearch/activities/sakai/>

## Phone Support Team

For personalised support please contact:

Peter Dixon on ph. 990 20795

[Peter.Dixon@its.monash.edu.au](mailto:Peter.Dixon@its.monash.edu.au)

- or

Nicholas McPhee on ph. 990 50597

[Nicholas.McPhee@its.monash.edu.au](mailto:Nicholas.McPhee@its.monash.edu.au)

## Contact MeRC

MeRC support staff are available to discuss all your research needs.

\*Please email your general enquiry to:

[merc@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:merc@adm.monash.edu.au)

- or phone:

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