

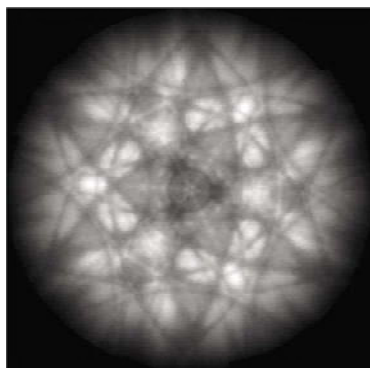
### Welcome to the first newsletter from the e-Research Office

The e-Research Office was created in May 2007 to respond to the increasing requirements for a focal point for outside and internal initiatives in e-Research.

To create the Office the Director, ITS, changed roles and now reports to the DVC (Research). At the moment the only other member of the team is Emma Curtis-Bramwell, who is the Communications and Administration Officer.

E-Research is the support of research by high performance computing, large data storage and management, high performance networks and new modes of collaboration. The move of research towards *in silico* experiments, modelling and simulation, analysis of multiple and disparate data and virtual collaboration workspaces are promoted and supported by the Office with advice, linking into expertise from ICT and other resources, including help with grant applications.

Please call or drop in for a chat and coffee to discuss how we might be able to help your research, or we can come to you.



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### Visit to La Trobe University by Renate Ericksen



Recently Dr Mark Kosten and Emma Curtis-Bramwell had the opportunity to meet with Renate Ericksen who is in Australia facilitating EU FP7 relationships and was a guest of the European Union Centre.

Renate is Head of the Office of European Affairs at the University of Oldenburg in Germany and for the next twelve months is working with the University of Newcastle to provide advice and assistance in the area of European funding and possibilities for collaborations with the University of Oldenburg.

Having worked at the European Commission in Brussels Renate has extensive knowledge of the internal structures of the direction of Research and Development. Renate's main task is to get funding from the European Commission Research and Development programmes for the University of Oldenburg research groups.

Her expertise includes information on current and planned EU programmes, along with how to access and complete application forms for funding. She can also assist with legal questions connected with the application and provide support in managing projects (financing, calculation, accounts etc.) and EU contracts and agreements.

If you are collaborating or might collaborate with any European research

group it is important that you investigate the potential for funding. In the first instance you can contact Dr Philip Bull, Director of the Innovative Universities European Union Centre, x3326, or the e-Research office. More information is also available at:

[www.ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/](http://www.ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/)  
[www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7/](http://www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7/)

## VeRSI Projects – An update



The Victorian e-Research Strategic Initiative is a State Government entity promoting e-Research amongst La Trobe, Monash and Melbourne Universities and the Department of Primary Industry.

A number of existing research projects are being enhanced with e-Research techniques, plus there are three new projects between La Trobe and DPI: an investigation of climate change in certain Victorian regions using ecoinformatics methods, creation of a bioinformatics toolbox and development of middleware to aid in remote instrumentation.

The ecoinformatics project is well under way and the other two will come up to speed in 2008.

Other advances coming from VeRSI include remote access to the Synchrotron and shared storage amongst the Universities, both of which are in development for initial use by mid-2008.

The projects are intended to be exemplars of how e-research techniques can aid research. If you wish to see exactly how this is done, and therefore spark ideas on how your own research can be helped, please contact us and we can arrange a time to meet with the VeRSI staff.

## Victorian e-Research Directors collaborating

An initiative by La Trobe is a regular but

informal bi-monthly meeting of Victorian Universities who have Directors of e-Research plus other key players in the field. The current attendees are from La Trobe, Monash, Melbourne, VPAC, VeRSI and AeRIC (part of DEST).

The meetings are designed to foster collaboration, reveal and hopefully solve common problems, initiate joint ventures and promote e-Research in the Victorian context.

Two meetings have been held with wide ranging discussions on e-Research in curriculum, the facility of grid-enabled research storage, IT support for researchers and more.

[www.versi.edu.au](http://www.versi.edu.au)

## e-Research Grants

The Research and Graduate Studies Committee has approved a new internal grant scheme for promotion of e-Research.

A maximum of five grants up to \$20,000 each will be awarded to existing research projects that can be boosted with e-research methods, such as training in high performance computing, development of software tools of general applicability, specialized equipment, salary for specialized support and enhancing collaboration amongst peers.

To apply for a grant you will need to fill in a simple form and a committee will select the projects. The scheme will run in 2008, so please watch the e-Research and RGSO web site for further information.

## Research e-mail Lists

We are developing a series of contact (primarily by email) lists so that we can target announcements. Hopefully soon you will be receiving more information from us that is not spam and of particular interest, such as the grant scheme noted above.

## E-Research Workshop

Tuesday November 27<sup>th</sup> is the date to put in your diaries.

The workshop will run from 9:30 until

4pm at the John Scott Meeting House Council Chamber and will include refreshments.

The opening will be by Prof Peter Dyson, Director, Research and Innovation, followed by Dr Rhys Francis, Director of the Australian e-Research Infrastructure Council (AeRIC, a DEST/NCRIS committee). The session before lunch is by VeRSI, on e-Research techniques and successes.

After lunch will be a series of practical seminars on high performance computing (run by VPAC), data storage and security (by La Trobe ICT).

All La Trobe researchers are welcome but please RSVP to Emma on x5140 or email [eresearch@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:eresearch@latrobe.edu.au).

## Department/School e-Research Sessions

Dr Mark Kosten has been attending a number of Department/School staff meetings to provide information on how the Office can help with your research. These have been very successful (we hope!) and allow us to talk as close to the individual researcher as possible given the large size of the University.

Only about 10% of all areas in the University have been visited (although it feels like more!) so please think of allowing about 20 minutes for us at your next staff meeting. Also, do not hesitate to call us at any time – I am sure we can help and enhance your research with new IT tools and techniques.

