THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

eRESEARCH COMMITTEE

A COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING COMMITTEE (RRTC)

1 Preamble

The e-Research agenda, both locally and globally, is gaining considerable momentum.

The Department of Education, Science, and Training (DEST) has acknowledged the increasing potential and demands of e-Research through its many initiatives including the establishment of an e-Research Coordinating Committee, the release of an interim e-Research Strategic Framework[1] and the allocation of almost $700 million to the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) roadmap implementation. The benefits of progressing and supporting the development of e-Research capability are identified as a key priority for advancing Australian research.

What is e-Research?

> "The term 'e-Research' encapsulates research activities that use a spectrum of advanced ICT capabilities and embraces new research methodologies emerging from increasing access to:
>
> - Broadband communications networks, research instruments and facilities, sensor networks, data repositories and their associated data standards, management and curation tools, and high performance computing resources;
> - Software and infrastructure services that enable secure connectivity and interoperability between researchers and the wide variety of data repositories, computers, systems and networks on which they depend;
> - Application and discipline-specific tools such as graphics intensive visualisation and simulation software, and interaction tools that provide the human interface allowing researchers to interact with each other and with their instruments, computational tools and data resources." [2].

The APSR project[3] recently conducted at the University of Melbourne identified several key issues that needed to be addressed to ensure the progress and support of e-Research at the university.

Issues included:

1. The need for an institution-wide strategy for e-Research;
2. The need for appropriate information policy and guidelines to assist researchers with the management of their research data and records;
3. The need for a coordinated data management infrastructure for supporting research;
4. The need to develop e-research capabilities among our researchers, particularly around the management of the data and the use of ICT technologies.
5. The need to improve opportunities for information and education around e-Research activity and capability within the university.

The R&RT Committee resolved at its September 2006 meeting to establish an E-Research Sub Committee to provide 'academic stewardship' and oversight of the e-research strategy and its implementation and advice on e-research issues in research and research training.

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[1] This report can be accessed at:
http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/policies_issues_reviews/key_issues/e_research_consult/interim_report.htm

[2] Taken from page 4 of the Interim Report of the e-Research Coordinating Committee, 30 September 2005. Full report available at:
http://www.dest.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/9526F5BC-B079-4903-AE0B-87140165F37F/10519/InterimReport1.pdf .

[3] Report tabled and discussed at the September 2006 meeting of the R&RT Committee

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1 To provide oversight and advice to the Research and Research Training Committee (RRTC) on the implementation of an e-Research strategy across the University including guidance on policy formulation. This strategy will ensure the promotion and support of internal coordination and good practice.

2.2 To provide advice to RRTC on the implications of major Government initiatives in research policy and funding around e-Research and to recommend changes to University strategic positioning, policy or procedures in light of this advice.

2.3 To advise the RRTC on planning issues related to specialist education needs associated with e-Research and the promotion of information dissemination and awareness-raising activities among the research communities at the University.

2.4 To recommend allocation priorities for the coordinated funding of e-Research-infrastructure and capability building activities to the Vice Principal (Information).

3 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

With due regard to a broad discipline mix, the membership of this committee will include:

Chair:

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor John McKenzie

Members:

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)	• Professor John McKenzie
Director e-Research	• Professor Leon Sterling
Vice-Principal (Research)	• Dr. Glenn Swafford
Vice-Principal (Information)	• Ms Linda O'Brien
Two Members from RRTC	• Professor Les Holmes • Professor Rao Kotagiri
Two Members from e-Research Expertise Network	• Professor Geoffrey Taylor • Mr Gavan McCarthy
One Member from Information Services	• Mr Sendur Kathir
One Postgraduate Student Member - President UMPA or nominee	• Ms Tammi Jonas

In Attendance:

Client Relationship Manager, Information Services for committee administration	• Ms Anna Shadbolt

4. MEETING DATES 2007

MEETING	DAY AND DATE	VENUE
1	11am – 12md Monday 26 March	Conference Room 3, Old Physics Conference Centre.
2	10-11 a.m. Monday 21 May	Conference Room 2, Old Physics Building
3	10-11 a.m. Monday 20 August	7th floor meeting Room, Raymond Priestley Building
4	10-11 a.m. Monday 19 November	Conference Room 2, Old Physics Building