

## Programme structure

The programme contains 4 strands:

- Larger scale projects to deploy VRE demonstrators based on existing frameworks, such as Sakai or OGCE
- Projects to identify functionality (in the form of tools and services developed in other projects) which has not hitherto been integrated into the existing framework architectures and to add such functionality to address clear user requirements
- Projects to develop and deploy lightweight, proof-of-concept VRE demonstrators appropriate to the needs and skills of specific communities
- A formative evaluation project to assess, as the programme proceeds, how effectively the selected projects are meeting the aims of the programme; to gather and disseminate best practice; to identify gaps; to raise awareness of the programme and stimulate discussion on VREs in the community; and to form an advisory group representative of all sectors of the research community to make recommendations for further work

## Projects

15 projects are funded under the programme as a result of the JISC Virtual Research Environment circular ([www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/funding\\_calls/2004/08/funding\\_circular5\\_04.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/funding_calls/2004/08/funding_circular5_04.aspx)).

### Strand 1

- Sakai VRE for Educational Research ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/project\\_sakai\\_edu\\_research.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/project_sakai_edu_research.aspx))
- Sakai VRE Portal Demonstrator ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/vre\\_sakai\\_portal.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/vre_sakai_portal.aspx))
- A VRE to Support the Integrative Biology Research Consortium ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/ibvre.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/ibvre.aspx))
- EVIE<sup>7</sup> (integration & deployment of existing components within a portal framework) ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/vre\\_evie.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/vre_evie.aspx))
- ELVI: Evaluation of a Large-scale VRE Implementation ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/vre\\_elvi.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/vre_elvi.aspx))
- Meeting Memory Technology Informing Collaboration ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/vre\\_access\\_grid.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/vre_access_grid.aspx))

## Strand 2

- Implementing the Kepler Workflow Interface into the Cheshire Digital Library Framework ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/cheshire3\\_vre.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/cheshire3_vre.aspx)).
- CSAGE: Collaborative Stereoscopic Access Grid Environment for Experimentation within the Arts & Humanities<sup>11</sup>

## Strand 3

- CORE: Collaborative Orthopaedic Research Environment ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/vre\\_sage.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/vre_sage.aspx))
- Silchester Roman Town: A Virtual Research Community ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/vre\\_silchester.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/vre_silchester.aspx))
- GROWL: VRE Programming Toolkit & Applications ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/vre\\_growl.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/vre_growl.aspx))
- ISME: Integration & Steering of Multi-Site Experiments to Assemble Engineering Body Scans ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/vre\\_isme.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/vre_isme.aspx))

## Cross-strand

- VRE for the History of Political Discourse 1500-1800 ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/vre\\_political\\_discourse.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/vre_political_discourse.aspx))
- BVREH: Building A VRE for the Humanities ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/vre\\_bvreh.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/vre_bvreh.aspx))
- IUGO: Conference Information Integration Project ([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/vre\\_iugo.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/vre_iugo.aspx))

## Strand 4

The programme formative evaluation is being conducted by a team of consultants from the Tavistock Institute

## Strand 5

VRE Tools and Resources Interoperability project is being lead by the University of Hull and comprises an international consortium of experts in the field.  
([www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_vre/vre\\_interoperability.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_vre/vre_interoperability.aspx))

## documents and multimedia

- **VREs in practice: Research needs**  
Audio/Video file
- **VREs in practice: Technical solutions**  
Audio/Video file

### ***Description/Transcript of VREs in practice: Research needs***

Now that research teams are often scattered across many miles and even continents, and collaboration in research has become more important than ever, the life of a researcher is anything but straightforward. This short videodemo, which gives a rundown of some of the 15 projects from the first phase of the Virtual Research Environments programme, aims to outline to largely non-technical researchers the benefits that VREs can bring in managing an increasingly complex working life. This film (Research needs) focuses on those projects which identified a research need and set about finding a way to meet this. The film emphasises the degree to which VREs can, and indeed should, be tailored to a particular team's requirements, even when based on a more generic structure, such as those based on Sakai, and look to the future and how VREs will become increasingly the norm.

### ***Description/Transcript of VREs in practice: Technical solutions***

Now that research teams are often scattered across many miles and even continents, and collaboration in research has become more important than ever, the life of a researcher is anything but straightforward. This short videodemo, which gives a rundown of some of the 15 projects from the first phase of the Virtual Research Environments programme, aims to outline to largely non-technical researchers the benefits that VREs can bring in managing an increasingly complex working life. This film (Technical solutions) focuses on those projects needing specific technological solutions from the outset. The film emphasises the degree to which VREs can, and indeed should, be tailored to a particular team's requirements, even when based on a more generic structure, such as those based on Sakai, and look to the future and how VREs will become increasingly the norm.