



Natural Products VRE

(Progress and the lessons we have learnt)

Martie van Deventer

Is this VRE-stuff really necessary?

- The emerging global scientific research infrastructure and practice require unique and complex skills – more so than ever before.
- VREs are about being part of the global research community and about making it easy to collaborate. Team sizes vary from 2 to 3000 people.
- VRE: helps create structure in a specific area of interest – Nanohub serves as an example.
- VREs are driven by changes in the way we work!
- eResearch infrastructure opens up new possibilities in research methods, workflows and approaches and VREs facilitate easy access to the infrastructure.
- So YES!
 - Our effort is still in the infancy stage but acquiring the skills to work within a virtual eco system/ research environment is essential for any of the large collaborative research projects.

Roadmap

- What is a VRE?
- Background for the natural products VRE
- Show the interface & basic navigation
- Role of the facilitator
- Look at the lessons we have learnt & identify some opportunities



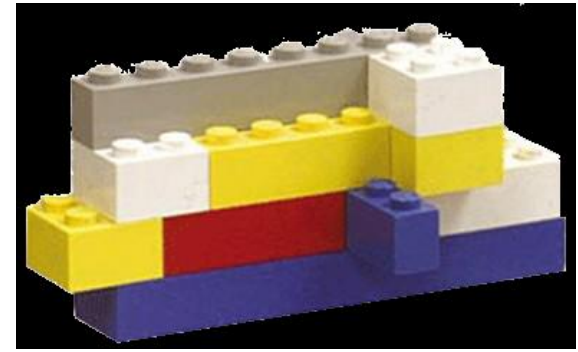
VRE – what is it?

- It is a workspace – like a physical office is a workplace.
- In brief & ideally - your entire office and laboratory via an Internet access point – no matter where you are.
- NOT a free standing product – you need to create the space that will work for you – *just as you would furnish your workplace*.
- Framework/ interface that gives access to tools, services and resources – *like the office door*.
- Manages security (access and authentication) – *the lock on the door*.
- VREs are part of infrastructure – it influences the infrastructure and is influenced by the infrastructure – *your office does not exist in isolation from the building either*.
- VREs have many commonalities with eLearning.
- Emphasis is on architecture and standards rather than integrating specific applications – *your office needs a chair, a desk & lab equipment – the exact ‘stuff’ is not prescribed*.

Characteristics of a VRE

- VRE is primarily about **collaboration** - across boundaries.
- VRE is about working smarter – improving, fast tracking, gaining competitive advantage, learning **faster** than your competitors.
- VRE is about continuous **efficiency** improvements.
- VRE is about **transparency**.
- VRE is about collecting **information and tools** and sharing these amongst a trusted network of collaborators.
- Understand that when you do not adhere to the requirements of the team (values, contributions, etc) ... technology allows you to be excluded!

In summary ...



- A VRE is not a product ...
- It is a collaborative online work environment (which also allows for personalization).
- No two VREs will ever be the same.
- That does not mean that VREs cannot overlap and share infrastructure.
- At the end of the Natural products VRE project the VRE will in all probability look different & have different components than what we added during the early days.

Background – Pol-SABINA VRE

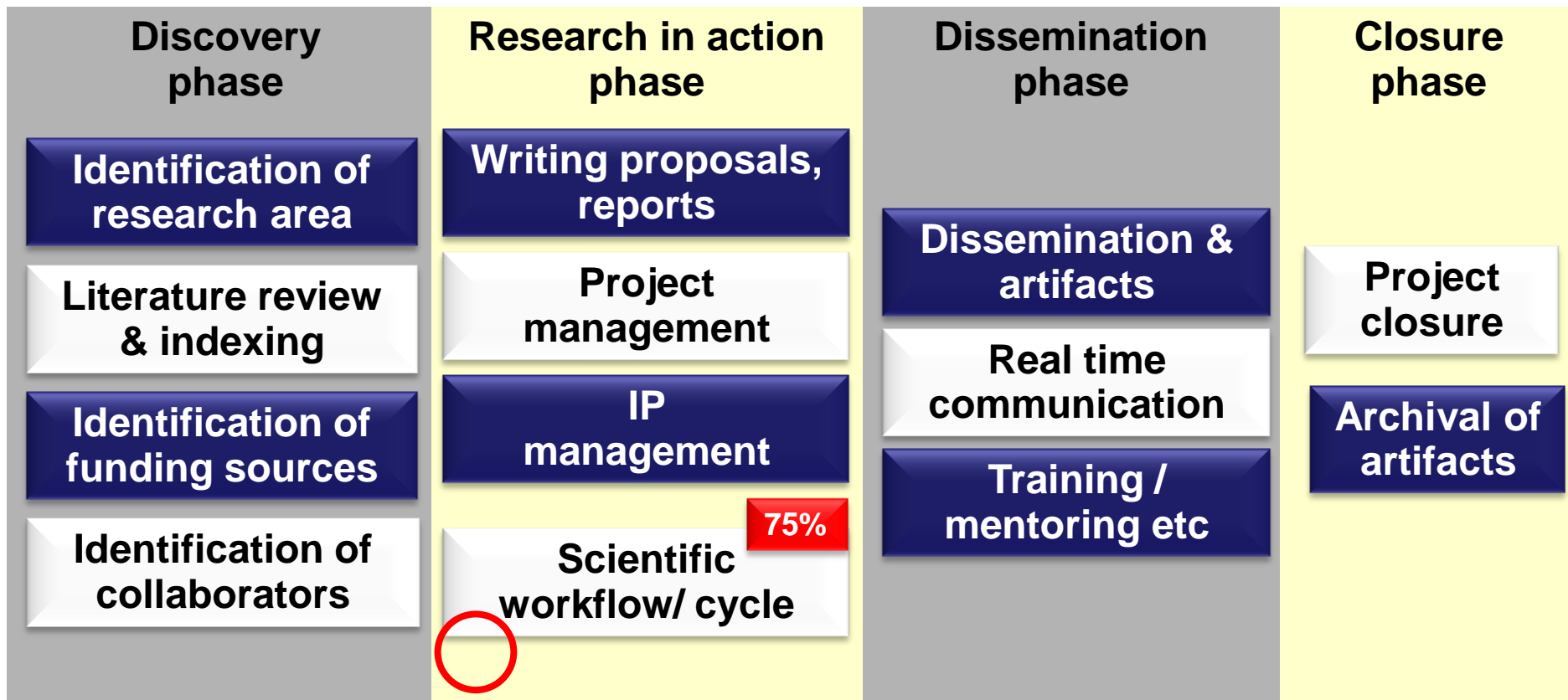
- The South African Biochemistry and Informatics for Natural Products (SABINA) network was established as a collaborative initiative amongst **Namibia, Tanzania, Malawi and South Africa**
- The POL-SABINA project was created to develop policy and support actions for the SABINA network:
 - create a **collaborative environment** amongst partners
 - permit researchers engaged in natural products research and associated capacity building initiatives to **enhance their efficiency and effectiveness as researchers**
 - ensure that an appropriate environment exists **to facilitate the translation** of their research outputs into actual products

Purpose in brief

- Build a proof of concept VRE – which could be duplicated.
- Teach M & PhD level students to work in the online, collaborative space.
 - Similarities with eLearning are therefore even more obvious.



First ... understand the research process ... the components



Based upon Pienaar, H., Van Deventer, M. 2009. To VRE or not to VRE? Do South African malaria researchers need a virtual research environment? *Ariadne*, 59, April 2009. <http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue59/pienaar-vandeventer/>



Discovery phase – current reality



No open sharing of information

Limited understanding of open access or of the access models available to low income countries



Personal networks; funder portal; literature; search engines; conferences

High impact traditional & open journals – data sets required by some journals; conferences

Making access to resources transparent

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window with the title "Project: Library resources". The address bar displays the URL "naturalproducts.bi.up.ac.za/vre/course/view.php?id=40". The page content is divided into two main sections: a navigation menu on the left and a topic outline on the right.

Navigation Menu:

- Home
 - My home
 - Site pages
 - My profile
 - My projects
 - student reports
 - Skye Bowers
 - Library Resources
 - Participants
 - Reports
 - Links to library resources
 - Open access searching
 - Search for books online
 - Tools
 - Moodle Training
 - POL-SABINA Administration
 - VPT
 - test

Topic outline:

Links to library resources

These links take you directly to your institution's electronic resources. Please note that each institution has its own licencing agreements. You will not necessarily be able to access resources at a partner institution.

CSIR resources

- University of Malawi
- University of Namibia
- University of Pretoria
- University of Tanzania
- University of Witwatersrand
- South African libraries consolidated
- Tea Research Foundation of Central Africa

News forum

1 **AGORA**

AGORA is a programme set up by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) together with major publishers that enables developing countries to gain access to an

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications: start, Moodle as V..., Project: Libr..., Microsoft Ex..., Malaria VRE..., Skype™ - mv..., Novell Group..., and zotero. The system clock indicates the time is 16:02.

Databases to collect references & contacts

Justin Omolo: List of collaborators - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Nigeria - Google Maps Justin Omolo: List of collaborators

naturalproducts.bi.up.ac.za/vre/mod/data/view.php?id=230

Google

- PhD Projects
 - Adushan Pillay
 - Benjamin Kumwenda
 - Godwil Madamombe
 - Jimmy Sumani
- Justin Omolo
 - Participants
 - Reports
 - Communication
 - Identification of research area
 - Identification of funding resources
 - Identification of collaborators
 - List of collaborators
 - View list
 - View single
 - Search
 - Project planning
 - Project proposal / Literature review
 - Standard operating procedures

Name: Prof Charles de Koning

Position: Professor of Organic Chemistry

Location: School of Chemistry, University of The Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Email address: Charles.DeKoning@wits.ac.za

Name: Dr Vinesh Maharaj

Position: Technology platform manager of natural and traditional products

Location: Biosciences, CSIR Pretoria, South Africa

Email address: VMaharaj@csir.co.za

Name: Dr Dashnie Naidoo

Position:

Location: Biosciences, CSIR Pretoria, South Africa

Email address:

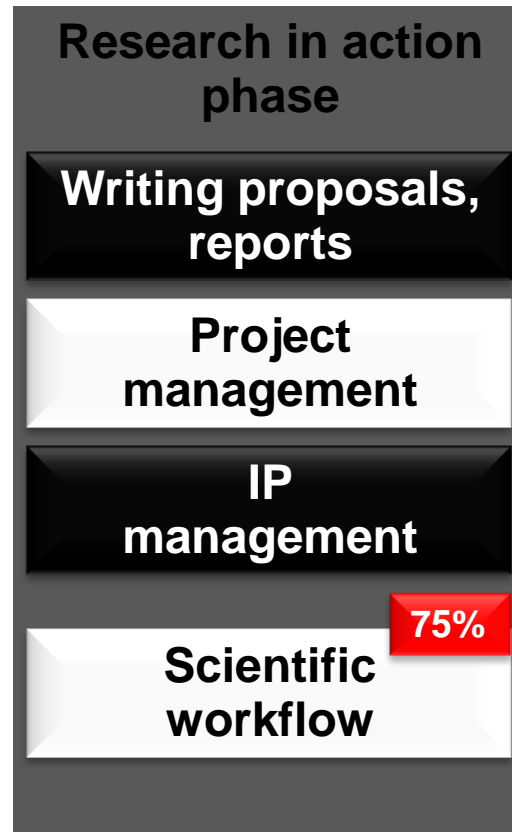
zotero

start Moodle as V... Justin Omolo... Microsoft Ex... Malaria VRE ... Skype™ - mv... Novell Group... 16:05

Research in action phase – current reality

Sophisticated instruments with own software – write data to servers;
Free analysis software; Paper lab book; Referencing system between lab book and instruments;
Ad hoc management of data (curation)

No formal project management tools are being used



MS Word / Open Office; templates; generic proposal; Document management is not common

In future:

Even more sophisticated instruments; Electronic lab book; anything that would allow more time for real research

IP management appears foreign

Managing research data

The screenshot displays a web application interface for managing research data. On the left, a navigation menu lists various tasks and categories, including 'Kennedy's Ngwira' and 'Research data'. The main content area shows a list of tasks, each with a number, a title, a description, and a list of sub-tasks. The 'Research data' task (numbered 6) is highlighted with a black oval.

Task Number	Task Title	Description	Sub-tasks	Completion Status
3	Identification of collaborators	Here you will list the details of all your collaborators in a database as demonstrated below.	List of collaborators	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Project planning	Here you will add your project planning files.	Workplan	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Project proposal / Literature review	Here you will add the necessary documents and add the reference manager you use to the database as demonstrated below.	Research proposal List of reference & bookmarking services	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Research data	Here you will add all your research data.	Results	<input type="checkbox"/>
7				<input type="checkbox"/>

Kennedy's Data

VIRE Kennedy Ngwira

You are logged in as Martie van Deventer (Logout)

Home ▶ My projects ▶ Kennedy's Ngwira ▶ Research data ▶ Results

Navigation

- Home
 - My home
 - Site pages
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 - Tanzania training project _1
 - SMME Workshop
 - student reports
 - Adushan Pillay
 - Benjamin Kumwenda
 - Godwil Madamombe
 - Jimmy Sumani
 - Justin Omolo
 - Kumbukani Nyirenda
 - Nicholas Ishmael
 - Pelly Malebe
 - Petrina Kapewangolo
 - Skye Bowers
 - Kennedy's Ngwira**
 - Participants
 - Reports
 - Communication

Results

Research results

- Activities_of_crude_extracts_against_HXB2_virus.pdf
- Activities_of_crude_extracts_against_ZM53_virus.pdf
- Antiplasmodial_activities_of_isolated_berberine.pdf
- Cytotoxicity_of_alkaloid_extracts.pdf
- Cytotoxicity_of_aqueous_extracts.pdf
- Cytotoxicity_of_DCM_MeOH_extracts.pdf
- Dose_Response_curves_of_crude_extracts.pdf
- Figure_8_antimalarial_activity_results_of_crude_extracts.pdf
- Mass_spectrum_data_for_active_compound.pdf
- Proposed_structure_of_active_compound.pdf
- Results_of_cytotoxicity_evaluation_of_berberine.pdf
- Results_of_parasitic_activity_of_fractions.pdf
- Results_of_proton_and_carbon_NMR_spectra.pdf
- TLC_profiles_of_active_wells.pdf
- TLC_profiles_on_purification.pdf
- UV_profile_of_active_compound.pdf

NMR Spectra data displayed

NMR SPECTRA

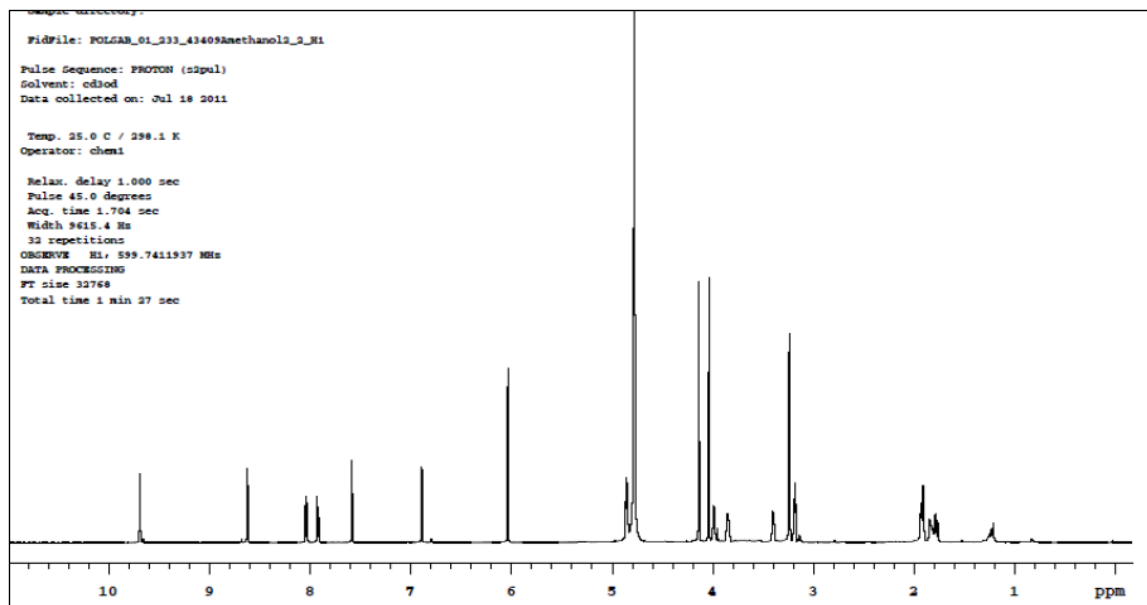


Figure 19: ¹H NMR spectrum for isolated compound

Identifying existing tools

digitalresearchtools

log in help



Wiki Pages & Files

Search this workspace

VIEW

DiRT

FrontPage

last edited by Lisa Spiro 9 months, 2 weeks ago

Page history

Digital Research Tools (DiRT)

This wiki collects information about tools and resources that can help scholars (particularly in the humanities and social sciences) conduct research more efficiently or creatively. Whether you need software to help you manage citations, author a multimedia work, or analyze texts, Digital Research Tools will help you find what you're looking for. We provide a directory of tools organized by research activity, as well as reviews of select tools in which we not only describe the tool's features, but also explore how it might be employed most effectively by researchers.

Please provide [feedback](#) on DiRT and [recommend tools](#) not included here (yet).

If you're interested in contributing to this wiki, please email Lisa Spiro at lspiro@rice.edu. Please see [Guidelines for Contributors](#) to learn how to add new information to the wiki.

If you are unfamiliar with some of the jargon, please see our [Glossary](#) page.

You do not need an account to *view* information in DiRT; request access only if you would like to *contribute* information.

Types of Tools

I want to...

- [Analyze data](#)
- [Analyze texts](#)
- [Author an interactive work](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [Brainstorm/generate ideas](#)
- [Build and share collections](#)
- [Collaborate](#)
- [Collect data](#)
- [Communicate with colleagues](#)
- [Compare resources](#)
- [Conduct linguistic research](#)
- [Convert/manipulate files](#)
- [Create a mashup](#)
- [Edit images](#)
- [Find research materials](#)

Tags: [DiRT](#), [Digital Research Tools \(DiRT\)](#), [digitalresearchtools](#), [dirt](#), [orienkin](#), [home](#), [index](#)
✓ Check for plagiarism

To join this workspace, [request access](#).

Already have an account? [Log in!](#)

- 7daysinmylife
- About this wiki
- Adobe Photoshop Express
- Analyze statistics
- Annotation and Notetaking Tools
- Articles and Reports on Digital Scholarship

Pages Files options

- [Authoring](#)
- [Blogging](#)
- [Brainstorming](#)
- [Citation Management](#)
- [Collaborative Authoring](#)
- [Collection Building](#)
- [Communication Tools](#)
- [Comparison Tools](#)
- [Data Collection](#)
- [Data Mining](#)
- [Data Visualization](#)
- [Find Research Materials](#)
- [Image Editing](#)
- [Linguistic Tools](#)

Linking out to the grid

The screenshot shows the South African National Grid website. At the top left is the logo for the South African National Grid, featuring a network of green nodes and lines. To the right is a search bar with the text "search...". Below the search bar is a navigation menu with the following items: HOME, APPLICATIONS, SUPPORT, JRU, EVENTS, WIKI, MONITORING. On the right side of the navigation menu are icons for a search engine, a magnifying glass, and a refresh button.

The main content area is titled "Home" and features a large heading: "What will you do with the grid today ?". Below this heading is a paragraph of text: "The South African National Grid is a federation of resources, institutes and Virtual Organisations. It is a platform for collaboration and research, providing many services to scientists. The national grid forms part of an e-Infrastructure and provides support to users of scientific computing and collaboration. The distributed computing facilities are owned, managed and operated by a federation of universities, national laboratories and research groups, integrated with a middleware layer to provide seamless access to a diverse set of research communities. This project is coordinated from the Meraka Institute, as part of the cyberinfrastructure programme." Below the text is a "Share" button with a Facebook icon.

Below the text is a login form with the following fields and options:

- Hey there, come on inside
- Username:
- Password:
- Remember Me
- LOGIN button
- Forgot your password?
- Forgot your username?
- Create an account

Below the login form is a list of links:

- SAAO and SAGrid - next steps
- Announcement : EPIKH 2011 school and workshop userfaq
- SAGrid TechTuesday
- Training and Open Day at Potchefstroom

At the bottom of the main content area is a section titled "LATEST DEVELOPMENTS >>" with a link: "SAAO and SAGrid - next steps". Below this is another link: "SAGrid Diary - a week at the SAAO".

On the left side of the page is a sidebar with the following sections:

- Overview
- Getting Started
- Integrate your site
- What is the grid?
- Middleware
- Collaborations and projects
- Regional e-Infrastructure
- In the News
- Important Links
- Blog

Below the sidebar is a section titled "News from the Grid World" with a sub-section "ISGTW RSS Feed" containing a list of news items:

- Stampede at the Texas Advanced Computing Center
- Building a new bridge between XSEDE and PRACE
- Open data and open science enter the mainstream

Below the news section is a section titled "BELIEF-II project" with a sub-section "News" containing a list of news items:

- Announcing the CREDES Summer School "Dependable Systems Design", June 2-3, 2011.
- EuroAfrica-ICT & eAfrica Monthly e-Newsletter/ March 2011

On the right side of the page is a "Twitter feed" section with two tweets:

- TheSAGrid RT @shahdol: The Internet Archive Starts Seeding Over a Million Torrents bit.ly/Hnfx8B 2 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite
- TheSAGrid RT @e_sctalk: Unused inventions get a crowdsourced creative spark #OpenScience @NewScientist news.sciencetec.com/article/mg2152... 2 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

Below the Twitter feed is a section titled "SANREN" (South African National Research Network) with logos for ORP chain, EGI, SPECIAL, EPIKH, IQI, and CFRN.

Dissemination phase



E-mail; face-to-face;
phone; webex; wiki; web
site; meetings

Face-to-face; hands on;
UP & WITS: e-Learning for
undergrads – little
evidence that it is used
extensively for researchers



Traditional publications &
conferences; limited
understanding of
interactive media

We added:



Investigated SMME owners as a
stakeholder grouping

Getting closer to understanding the needs of the SMMEs



They need a on-stop place to find relevant Internet detail.

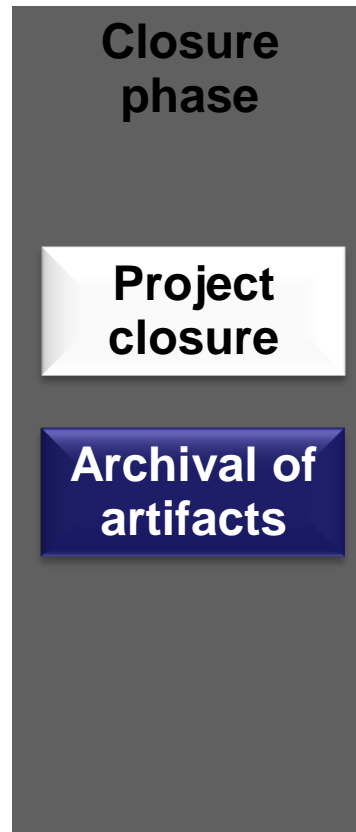
Huge need for financial & marketing guidelines/ training.

Showing much interest in our newsletter.

They are more mobile and Internet literate than what was expected.

Closure & Research Management

Write all the project detail to a mobile format such as DVD or external hard drive; Several copies kept but not made accessible



We created a central store of all content, back-up and protected

Research Management

Provides a quick, single access place to see all the current and completed research in the system

VRE for natural products research



<http://naturalproducts.bi.up.ac.za/vre/>



Login

Username

Password

[Create new account](#)

[Lost password?](#)

[Back to SABINA](#)

This digital workspace is home to a number of researchers concerned with the utilisation of African natural products - to enhance food security and improve human and animal health.

SABINA is a network that constitutes the following partners: University of Malawi, University of Namibia, University of Dar es Salaam, University of Pretoria, University of Witwatersrand, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Tea Research Foundation of Central Africa. SABINA partnership is focused on the building of capacity in natural product research through training of MSc and PhD students. The main goal of the SABINA network initiative is to implement productive postgraduate programmes in the chemistry/biochemistry of natural products. This project is funded as a Carnegie Regional Initiative in Science and Education (see <http://sites.ias.edu/sig/ri/se/>).

The linked POL-SABINA initiative is mainly funded by EU ACP Science and Technology Programme and is supported through the Carnegie-RISE initiative. It focuses on the development of biological resources with application in medicine, health promotion, and

SciDev.Net

LATEST NEWS

on science, technology & the developing world.

Amazon Peruvians show protection against bat rabies

A study of two communities in northern Peru has revealed that a significant proportion have developed immunity to the rabies

virus. [More...](#)

3 August 2012 | Source:

Global initiative seeks to boost health innovation

Catalonia International

Post login

VIRE Pol-SABINA Virtual Research Environment You are logged in as Martie van Deventer (Logout)

Home ▶ Site pages

Main menu

- Site news
- Site wiki
- Medicinal plant wiki
- Site wiki

Navigation

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- Site news
- Site wiki
- Medicinal plant wiki
- Site wiki
- My profile
- My projects

Settings

- Front page settings
 - Turn editing on
 - Edit settings

Site news

[Add a new topic](#)

Updates/ Announcements ↓

EMBO Global Exchange Lecture Course on Innate Immunity - evolution and advances in clinical medicine
by Natalie Bowers - Friday, 20 July 2012, 11:08 AM

The EMBO Global Exchange Lecture Course on Innate Immunity – evolution and advances in clinical medicine will be held in Johannesburg from 2-5 Sept 2012.

The lecture series is aimed at bringing together young scientists and expose them to the latest findings in the field of innate immunity and to provide a platform for encouraging future immunological research in this area.

Read the rest of this topic(123 words)...

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)
Discuss this topic (0 replies so far)

Call for Applications: E-learning master in Biosafety in Plant Biotechnology
by Natalie Bowers - Friday, 20 July 2012, 11:02 AM

UNIDO E-Biosafety Training Programme.pdf

This is to inform that the Faculty of Agriculture of the Marche Polytechnic University, Ancona (IT) has opened the call for applications for the V Edition of the International E-Biosafety Master. [Click here](#) for more information and the application forms.

Calendar

August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Project categories

- Student reports
- PhD Projects
- MSc Projects
- Courses
- Tools and resources
- Moodle training course
- POL-SABINA Admin
- Test

All projects ...

Messages

No messages waiting

Messages

Online users

(last 5 minutes)

Defining roles



Home ▶ Projects ▶ MSc Projects

Search projects:

Navigation

Home

- My home
- ▶ Site pages
- ▶ My profile
- ▶ My projects
- ▼ Projects
 - ▼ **MSc Projects**
 - ▶ Kennedy's Ngwira
 - ▶ Liberata Mwita
 - ▶ Moola Nyambe
 - ▶ Secilia Ilonga
 - ▶ Tinotenda Shoko

Settings

- ▶ Category: MSc Projects
- ▶ My profile settings
- ▶ Site administration

Project categories:

All the students doing their masters.

Kennedy Ngwira

Project owner: Kennedy Ngwira
Project owner: Quintino Mgani
Project owner: Vinesh Maharaj
Project observer: Barbara Timmermann
Project observer: Emmanuel Fabiano
Project observer: Andrew Marston
Project observer: Ella Nyakunu
Project observer: Avrelija Cencic
Project observer: Shigemi Hara
Project observer: Jane Morris
Project observer: John Becker

Liberata Mwita

Project owner: Oleg Reevea
Project owner: Sylvester Lyantagaye
Project owner: Liberata Mwita
Project observer: Avrelija Cencic
Project observer: Shigemi Hara
Project observer: Andrew Marston
Project observer: John Becker
Project observer: Barbara Timmermann
Project observer: Emmanuel Fabiano
Project observer: Jane Morris
Project observer: Ella Nyakunu

Document management integration

[Home](#) » [Data Management New](#) » Alfresco

Company Home My Home Guest Home My Alfresco

mvandeve

mvandeve
This view allows you to browse the items in this space.

Add Content Create More Actions Details View

Browse Spaces Items Per Page 10

Name	Description	Created	Modified	Actions
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group	11 February 2011 11:31	15 April 2011 11:02	[Actions]
COSTS	Project costs	11 February 2011 11:33	4 March 2011 11:12	[Actions]
CSIR CONTRACTS	Contract details and copies	11 February 2011 11:34	15 April 2011 10:59	[Actions]
FUNDING	Budgets, orders, invoices	11 February 2011 11:47	4 March 2011 11:12	[Actions]
Hardy	Plone site	3 March 2011 14:54	3 March 2011 14:54	[Actions]
HUBzero	HUBzero Technology Group	11 February 2011 11:49	4 March 2011 11:12	[Actions]
IMAGES	Photos and logos relevant to project	11 February 2011 11:51	4 March 2011 11:12	[Actions]
INTERNS	CV's, appointments, costs	11 February 2011 11:55	4 March 2011 11:12	[Actions]
Literature	Includes articles, books, reports	16 February 2011 14:03	4 March 2011 12:41	[Actions]
Martie's Space	Testing Alfresco functionality	20 January 2011 14:59	4 March 2011 11:05	[Actions]

Page 1 of 2

Content Items Items Per Page 10

Name	Description	Size	Created	Modified	Actions
Developing a plone site for research	Correspondence regarding the developing of a plone site	4.82 KB	3 March 2011 14:54	3 March 2011 15:06	[Actions]
Test	dddd	0.01 KB	4 March 2011 08:23	4 March 2011 08:24	[Actions]
tino - Jnl of Ethnopharmacol.pdf		79.35 KB	4 March 2011 08:25	4 March 2011 08:25	[Actions]

Page 1 of 1

Dspace repository



for Natural Products Research

You are logged in as Martie van Deventer (Logout)

Home ► Site pages

Main menu

- Site news
- Site wiki
- Medicinal plant wiki
- Site wiki
- Natural Products Repository**

Navigation

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 - Site wiki
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 - Site wiki
 - Natural Products Repository
- My profile
- My projects

Settings

- Front page settings
 - Turn editing on
 - Edit settings
 - Users

Site news

[Add a new topic](#)

LIBERATA MWITA

by [Ella Nyakunu](#) - Monday, 1 October 2012, 01:52 PM

Ms. Liberata Mwita, last Friday 28 September 2012, successfully defended her MSc (Biotechnology). She will be part of the 2012 UDSM graduation ceremonies on the 27th October 2012. Thanks to everyone at SABINA, POL-SABINA and RISE.

Congratulations, all the best for the future!

"Hongera, wote bora kwa ajili ya baadaye!"

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)

[Discuss this topic \(9 replies so far\)](#)



New fund for young SA entrepreneurs

by [Natalie Bowers](#) - Thursday, 20 September 2012, 09:32 AM

The department of science & technology's Technology Innovation Agency has launched a new fund to support young local inventors and entrepreneurs. [Click here to read this article.](#)

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)

[Discuss this topic \(0 replies so far\)](#)



SANBio Guidelines on Traditional Knowledge & Plant Genetic Resource

by [Natalie Bowers](#) - Thursday, 20 September 2012, 09:27 AM

[Published Version of TK PGRC Guidelines 21.8.12.pdf](#)

African leaders, through the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Calendar

◀ October 2012 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Messages

No messages waiting

[Messages](#)

Online users

(last 5 minutes)

- Martie van Deventer
- Natalie Bowers [✉](#)
- Skye Blue [✉](#)
- Liberata Mwita [✉](#)
- Godwil Madamombe [✉](#)

Natural products repository – subject not institutional!

Natural Products Digital Repository: Home - Mozilla Firefox

naturalproducts.bi.up.ac.za:8181/jspui/

VIRE for Natural Products

Natural Products Digital Repository >

THE NATURAL PRODUCTS REPOSITORY IS LIVE!
Please forward references to articles you would like to see included. We'll soon have a good collection of articles - please come back!

SEARCH
Enter some text in the box below to search DSpace.

COMMUNITIES IN DSPACE
Choose a community to browse its collections.

- Applications
- Aromatics
- Bacteria
- Compounds
- Fungi
- Methods
- Natural product commercialisation
- Natural products
- Omic technologies
- Plants
- Structure elucidation
- VRE newsletters

Search DSpace
Go

Advanced Search

- Home

Browse

- Communities & Collections
- Issue Date
- Author
- Title
- Subject

Sign on to:

- Receive email updates
- My DSpace authorized users
- Edit Profile
- Help
- About DSpace

A repository collection for Natural Product publications

Content on this site is updated continuously. For more information regarding the contents of the repository, or any access problems or concerns please contact Natalie Bowers

SHERPA RoMEO
Visit this link for Publisher's copyright policies regarding self archiving.

SHERPA RoMEO

Please forward any links you may have to Natalie Bowers

zotero



GENERAL NEWS

The cup of herbal tea that could help fight breast cancer: plant extract can kill cells in test tube (Mail Online Health, Aug 2012)

A traditional herbal tea may hold the key to fighting breast cancer, claim scientists. Extracts from the plant known as virgin's mantle, which is used as a medicinal tea in some countries, can kill cancerous cells in the test tube. The plant-based tea is already drunk by women in rural Pakistan who have breast cancer, but until now its use as a treatment has been regarded as folklore...[Read more](#). To read the research article [click here](#).

Drought-resistant tea highlighted in natural product research (SciDev, Sep 2012)

Researchers in Malawi have developed tea clones able to withstand the worst droughts in the country in recent years, a meeting on natural product development has heard. Chris Kamlongera, principal of Chancellor College, University of Malawi, said the Tea Research Foundation of Central Africa, whose members are Malawi and Zimbabwe, used genetic biomarkers to develop the drought-resistant cultivars...[Read more](#)

Rethinking herbal medicine (The Scientist, Sep 2012)

Many scientists raise a skeptical eyebrow to traditional herbal treatments, but a new phylogenetic study suggests that such remedies may hold promise—for both medicine and drug development. In the study, researchers from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom found that many medicinal plants used by nearly 100 cultures on different continents are related...[Read more](#)

CONFERENCES

16 Nov 2012

Realizing the value of plant natural products: from metabolic engineering to biorefining

Venue: Stevenage, United Kingdom

27-30 Nov 2012

13th Tetrahedron symposium (Asia) - challenges in bioorganic & organic medicinal chemistry

Venue: Taipei, Taiwan

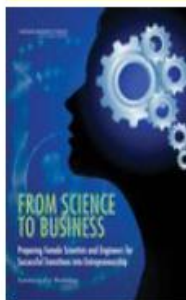
18-21 Feb 2013

2nd Biotechnology world congress

Venue: Dubai, UAE

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From Science to Business

Preparing female scientists and engineers for successful transitions into entrepreneurship: summary of a workshop

From science to business: preparing female scientists and engineers for successful transitions into entrepreneurship is the summary of an August 2009 workshop that assesses the current status of women undertaking entrepreneurial activity in technical fields, to better understand the nature of the barriers they encounter, and to identify what it takes for women scientists and engineers to succeed as entrepreneurs. This report focuses on women's career transitions from academic science and engineering to entrepreneurship, with a goal of identifying knowledge gaps in women's skills as well as experiences crucial to future success in business and critical for achieving leadership positions in entrepreneurial organizations.

Lessons Learnt & Opportunities

Lessons

- Do not attempt this without the co-operation of an inquisitive ICT team.
- MUCH change management is required.
- Do not underestimate the role of the facilitator.
- Building the skills and the infrastructure is really rewarding.

Roles of the facilitator

- Controlling permissions
- Training & troubleshooting
- Evaluating & testing platform & tool features
- Identifying resources to be integrated into Moodle
- Liaison with the VRE developer(s)
- Scouting for relevant content – irrespective of format
- Facilitating the development of relationships
- Spotting opportunities & making linkages
- Pushing only relevant content to the community

Building skills & infrastructure

- Training/ skills development need is huge.
 - You need to be in control of the subject matter
 - You need to understand what you will need to train
 - It is all about empowerment not intermediation
- Database development.
 - Structure required – for access but also to exchange content
 - Evaluate & determine the best application/ product to use
 - Quality assurance
 - Harvesting and sharing standards
- Advice – what information management tools will fit into their infrastructure
 - Guarding against ‘duplication’
 - Link when possible – each does not require its own!
- Repositories
 - Think wider than just documents – Natural products capture their data in graphic formats

Opportunities

- UP is busy developing an 'internal VRE' for their librarians to experiment with the facilitation role.
- WITS have decided to use SAKAI as its eLearning platform. Transferring the learning gained while developing Moodle will obviously fast track their learning.
- University of Malawi is investigating the possibility of taking over the facilitation of the VRE.
- Add other opportunities from the RISE meeting.

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Questions?