

WHAT IS Samed

(SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL DATABASE)?

SAMED is a central repository containing the outputs of all MRC-funded research. Types of publications stored in this database are journal articles, technical reports, case studies, policy briefs, reviews, etc.

SAMED is an information source that is capable of generating reports on MRC output details and statistics for various audiences.

What happens to submitted publications?

- The bibliographical details are captured and a hard copy of the publication is filed.
- Publications received are acknowledged in MRC News. Reprints of these publications can be requested via the Library and Information Services Division.
- The reprint list is used by the editorial team of the MRC News to source ideas for articles. The MRC News is read by many external stakeholders.
- SAMED is exported on a quarterly basis to NISC (National Inquiry Services Centre), which is an internationally recognised information source, based in Grahamstown.
- Publications are uploaded to SAMED online.

SAMED online is a web-based version of SAMED. The web address is: www.mrc.ac.za/SamedSearch or it can be accessed through the MRC Intranet. This online database is also accessible to non-MRC persons. Publications can be searched by the search terms provided. Reprints can be ordered through the Online Document Delivery Service <http://www.mrc.ac.za/delivery/>

It is requested that all MRC-funded research publications be submitted to the Chief Librarian:

Alvina Matthee
Information Services Division
Medical Research Council
PO Box 19070
Tygerberg
7505
Email: alvina.matthee@mrc.ac.za

Reprint submissions for SAMED publication can be made in either electronic or hard copy format.

Document Management system

The KnowledgeTree™ is a web-based enterprise document management system specifically developed for the MRC to facilitate efficient and secure document and workflow management.

The system was built using open-source technologies, which is in line with the South African Government's open-source software strategy.

The objective of the project is to provide an environment in which a single source of electronic MRC documents can be created and stored. These documents could include annual reports, research outputs, posters, funding proposals, budget applications, publication lists, images, etc.

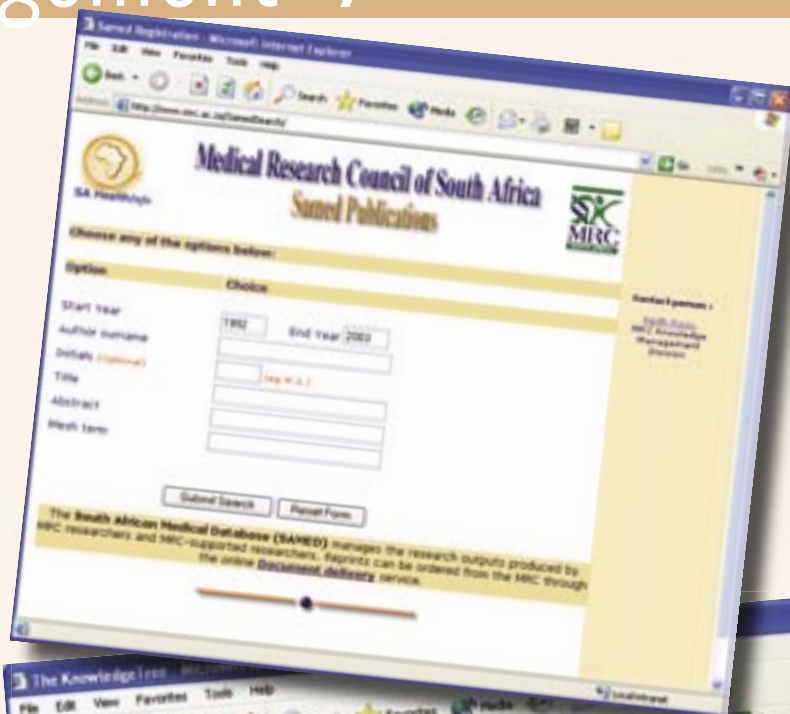
The KnowledgeTree™ provides the standard document management features as well as value-added features.

The standard features are:

- Version control
- Full text search
- Multiple search types
- Extensive meta data fields
- User access rights control
- Workflow management
- User/interdepartmental collaboration facility.

The value-added features are:

- A discussion forum facility that is document-based
- Document-linking feature that provides a virtual binder of documents
- Archiving facility – archiving date for a document can be preset, using either a document usage or date criteria
- Ability to allow restricted access to folders to external parties.



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The Management Information SYSTEM (now known as REPORTNET)

The Management Information System (MIS) is a business intelligence system which provides structured access to information and data about the MRC's past and current activities in the following areas:

- Financial information
- Human resource information.

Access to the Management Information System (MIS) enables users to analyse and query data and gain insight into the activities of the MRC in specified areas. This in turn enables users to keep track of developments and thereby make more informed business decisions.

ReportNet is the very latest in business intelligence tools from Cognos, and will provide a changed and enhanced appearance of the MIS which will provide a standardised platform for reporting at the MRC.

This new software is being implemented world-wide in many large organisations. It is a web-based reporting solution which connects users to one server. There are no requirements for software to be installed on individual computers. ReportNet requires less maintenance and therefore a smaller IT team. The security and privacy of data for end-users is of a higher quality because access to the product is integrated with the MRC's e-mail directory server, which means that users use their e-mail user ID and password to access data on the MIS.

The production and output of the reports are standard and centralised, and all reports have the same look and feel. This was not the case before. The product uses standard Windows functionality and offers users more opportunities to customise reports the way they are presented.

All the financial reports on the MIS have been converted into ReportNet and will be accessible on the Intranet on a date to be advised. The conversion of the Human Resource reports is well on its way to completion and will follow soon.

With the implementation of ReportNet, users at the MRC are assured of all the ease and advantages currently available in business intelligence software, thus enabling them to make more informed business decisions.



Brigitte Geddes

We encourage all users to make contact with Brigitte Geddes on 021 938 0495 should they have any related enquiries or concerns.