Speaker 1

How do you currently use technology in your research?

Speaker 2 (Professor Mark von Itzstein)

From technology that’s associated with the scientific profile, we use an enormous amount of computational science. Therefore, a large array of different databases, a lot of computer software, a lot of high end instrumentation that requires computer support and integration of information that flows from experiments associated with those high end equipment. So, typically in a day, we would be looking at data that comes from those high end instruments, looking at databases, particularly literature databases where we are trying to understand what’s gone on in science in the past, as well as integrating all of that information to come up, perhaps, with a paper at the end of the day that takes our knowledge, what knowledge has been published, and writing some advice to that knowledge.

Speaker 1

How do you think you and your colleagues will be using technology in 2020?

Speaker 2

Right now, I still find that the integration of various technologies clunky. I could well imagine that that integration would be vastly improved to the extent where perhaps it’s going to be driven mostly by voice command rather than typing commands in to go and explore a database. For example, we would be able to use sophisticated voice over technologies to actually search various databases, for example, or integrate end data from our high end instruments.

Speaker 1

What core skills will research academics need in 2020?

Speaker 2

I think in part they are going to have to be better educated in the way that they use computers generally. I could imagine there will be enormous advance in both hardware and indeed software related to the phenomenon that I was just talking about, and that’s integration of databases and how to take outcomes from various databases and integrate them to an advantage of actually producing a paper, for example. I think that therefore an average academic is going to have to be much more skilled in learning how to use those new types of technology.
Speaker 1

What would you like to see in a Griffith IT 2020 strategy?

Speaker 2

The most important thing in my mind is making IT seamless. Being able, as I said, to search without difficulty a variety of databases. Right now, we have to think about, well how do we access web of science, web of knowledge, citation indices, for example, a whole range of different databases. If it could be much more seamless, rather than thinking well where do we go for that, press buttons, if we could actually have voice technology or voice controlled technology, I think it would make a major advance. Seamless is the key word to me.

[end of recording]