

Database UTF-8 (2.x)

⊖ Irrespective of whether you utilize MySQL or Oracle, be sure you have configured your database to use the UTF-8 character set. Failure to do so will result in range of issues when attempting to use Unicode characters in Sakai. Consult your database documentation or a local DBA for instructions on how to set your database up properly.

If you are uncertain as to how your database is currently configured, you can check with a query. Here is a sample query for checking an Oracle instance:

```
SQL> select value from nls_database_parameters where parameter = 'NLS_CHARACTERSET';

VALUE
-----
AL32UTF8
```

For MySQL, the command to see what encoding your database is currently set to is "show create database sakai", assuming, of course, that your database is named "sakai". e.g.:

```
mysql> show create database sakai;
+-----+-----+
| Database | Create Database |
+-----+-----+
| sakai | CREATE DATABASE `sakai` /*!40100 DEFAULT CHARACTER SET utf8 */ |
+-----+-----+
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

Converting a database from one character set to another is a non-trivial operation, particularly if it is a large production database. We recommend strongly that you verify this aspect of the database creation and configuration process before deploying Sakai.