Carole Goble  
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University of Manchester  
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Oxford Road  
Manchester M13 9PL  

Re. myExperiment Repository Enhancement Proposal

9th February 2009

Dear Carole,

On behalf of the Northwest Institute for Bio-Health Informatics (NIBHI), I would like to offer my strongest possible support for your proposal to enhance the myExperiment repository and integrate it with institutional repositories in Higher Education.

The myExperiment team has defined the state-of-the-art in research collaboration and sharing. Taking this work into institutional repositories has great potential to achieve the cultural change required to enhance the sharing of data, research methods and expertise considerably. At the institutional level the ideas behind myExperiment could build a more effective reward environment for research collaboration, a low cost. This is an important opportunity for Higher Education.

In NIBHI we are collaborating with the myExperiment team to find smarter ways to share packages of research, encapsulated as Research Objects, between disciplines and organisations. In particular, the ESRC Obesity e-Lab project bridges health and social sciences in this way to create new insights into obesity. Obesity e-Lab also bridges University and Public Health Service settings for research. Thus, if this proposal is supported, the Obesity e-Lab instance of myExperiment could extend the notion of an institutional repository to the co-producers of Research Objects outside the parent institution. This means quicker, deeper insights and greater organisational memory for the Higher Education sector and its collaborators. A similar opportunity, on a larger scale, applies to the NHS e-Labs that the North West e-Health project is developing.

I hope this excellent proposal is funded, and I look forward to extending NIBHI’s fruitful collaborations with the myExperiment team.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Iain Buchan  
Director & Professor of Public Health Informatics