5 February 2009

Dear Dave

I am writing in my capacity as Head of Science, Technology and Medicine at The British Library. The British Library fully supports your project proposal myExperiment Repository Enhancement and looks forward to collaborating with you on the next phase of development, if funded.

The myExperiment Repository Enhancement project complements the British Library’s own activities in the domain of scientific data, in particular the Research Information Centre (RIC), a Virtual Research Environment that we are developing jointly with Microsoft External Research.

The RIC provides a means through which researchers can collaborate on projects, as well as interact with external services and manage information throughout the research lifecycle, from within the desktop. The functionality includes options for the rating and annotating of content within the RIC and with other networking sites. myExperiment will be one of the key sites in this regard and the proposed enhancements will enable us to provide an even greater level of integration than originally envisaged. The myExperiment repository provides an important resource by supporting new types of digital items such as workflows, as well as demonstrating to the community the value of taking a social network approach to meet the scientific needs of researchers. We believe that the project gives an important insight into supporting the new forms of research practice, which are already being adopted by the next generation of researchers.

Arising from the Library’s Science, Technology and Medicine initiative, the RIC has been developed for the scientific research community and, as such, will embrace access to scientific datasets, as well as enabling users to access the tools and workbenches required to retrieve and manipulate such data. The myExperiment project, and particularly the proposed enhancements, will enable us to realise our aims with respect to the provision and enactment of these types of tools within our own services.

Continued funding of myExperiment will allow us to continue working with the project team to facilitate the discovery, sharing and curation of workflows within both project and network environments. As for the curatorial developments, these will help inform our own work with regard to the preservation of digital research outputs and are therefore also of great interest to us.

I wish you all success with your application.

Lee-Ann Coleman PhD
Head of Science, Technology & Medicine