10 February, 2009

Prof David De Roure
School of Electronics and Computer Science
University of Southampton
Southampton  SO17 1BJ
United Kingdom

Dear Prof De Roure:

I am very pleased to write this letter in support of the proposal for enhancement of the myExperiment project. I learned of the project at a Digital Curation Centre (DCC) conference in December, 2008, which my organization co-sponsored. Both the organizer of the European Conference on Digital Libraries (ECDL) and I (a programme co-chair for the ECDL Conference) were so impressed by Carole Goble's presentation that we invited her on the spot to keynote the ECDL conference the following year.

I am writing you in my capacity as Associate Executive Director of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), a joint program of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and EDUCAUSE. We work on a wide variety of issues related to digital information, including e-research, data stewardship, repositories, and institutional and organizational issues related to cyberinfrastructure. Since our inception in 1990, we have had a strong working relationship with the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and co-sponsor a conference with them in the UK every other year. CNI tries to be at the leading edge of thinking related to digital information projects and our membership includes most major research universities in the US as well as leading institutions, such as the British Library, in other countries.

The myExperiment project is significant because it addresses a key area of stewardship for large datasets – that of documenting workflows and experiment plans. This aspect of data stewardship is currently underestimated by many in the field, and the pioneering work of myExperiment will likely provide guidance for many projects in the future. The myExperiment project's user-centric approach, which genuinely addresses requirements of scholars regarding rights, attribution, and credit, is critically important.

The Coalition for Networked Information is very interested in the trajectory of myExperiment's work, focusing on integration with other repositories and also with blogs and other social software tools. Their planned work on access mechanisms for scientists to locate materials of interest that reside in repositories and means for scientists to share their research at appropriate points in the research cycle are both very important enhancements for the research community.
I look forward to an ongoing dialogue with the myExperiment team as they further develop their work. I would welcome them to use our semi-annual Coalition for Networked Information meetings as a forum in which to disseminate their results into the digital library community.

I strongly support myExperiment's bid and wish you every success.

Sincerely yours,

Joan K. Lippincott
Associate Executive Director