JISC Secretariat
Brettenham House
5 Lancaster Place
London
WC2E 7EN

10 February 2009

To whom it may concern,

Re: myExperiment Repository Enhancement

I am delighted to write in support of the myExperiment Repository Enhancement proposal submitted to the JISC Information Environment Programme Call.

I welcome the opportunities this proposal provides for the Information Management Group (IMG) in the School of Computer Science, University of Manchester, and the continued strengthening of the highly successful collaboration with the University of Southampton and many other international partners who contribute to myExperiment. The goals of the project play very well to the School’s plans for promoting interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research.

The School has been at the vanguard of the UK’s e-Science and e-Infrastructure programme. The myGrid project, under the directorship of Professor Goble, has produced outstanding research results whilst developing and deploying software that is routinely used in the field, and thus, in turn, stimulates new research avenues that benefit the domain. The myExperiment project has produced a unique and valuable repository, and pioneered innovations in social curation and community-management of new forms of scholarly publishing using Web 2.0 mechanisms. Manchester is also about to launch an Institutional Repository – eScholar – which represents a major investment and a commitment to our digital scholarly communication of research. Computer Science is one of the “early adopters” of eScholar, piloting our technical report series and contributing to its design. Like myExperiment, eScholar has taken a user-driven, multiple prototype route to design.

We are proud of the success of myExperiment, are committed to eScholar, and are enthusiastic supporters of this proposal that will link the two to mutual benefit and the benefit of other repositories.

As the proposal will bid for 80% recoverable costs, we will effectively contribute £27786 institutional commitment.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Prof Norman Paton
Head of School