Dear David,

I am pleased to write in support of your application for continued funding of the myExperiment project. myExperiment provides an important resource for researchers around the world by supporting best practices for managing digital research artifacts, such as workflows. Information and archival science research has shown that these resources are notoriously difficult to handle effectively, and most researchers are not trained information management professionals, nor should they have to be. Just as data preservation has become a critical issue for many sciences, likewise preservation of workflows and other digital research artifacts will become a critical issue to sustaining progress across many disciplines. By establishing the research infrastructure to address some of the most common and vexing distributed collaboration problems that have plagued researchers for years, myExperiment is leading by example with a bold vision for the future of research collaboration.

myExperiment has also demonstrated the value of the sociotechnical approach to developing information systems to support research discovery, sharing and curation. Through excellent interaction design and carefully considered functionality, myExperiment supports social search and the development of communities of practice, both of which are challenging but important to developing and maintaining healthy scientific discourse. At the same time, the project has succeeded in addressing a number of usability and incentive problems that stand in the way of good research information management by reducing the overhead required for individual researchers, small research groups, and distributed teams to proactively manage their research artifacts through the entire research process, rather than simply depositing finished work in a repository. This holistic attention to the entire research and research artifact lifecycle has generated an impressive and innovative solution, instead of simply painting a digital file cabinet with Web 2.0. Not only do myExperiment’s successes generate an important insight into supporting the new forms of research practice which are already being adopted by the next generation of researchers, but it plays a crucial role in training these researchers to better manage
ERROR: undefinedresource
OFFENDING COMMAND: findresource

STACK:

/0
/CSA
/0
/CSA
-mark-