



National Center for Atmospheric Research
NCAR Library
1850 Table Mesa Drive
Boulder, CO 80305
Web: <http://www.ucar.edu/library/>

May 3, 2011

Josh Greenberg
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
630 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2550
New York, NY, 10111

Re: Letter of Support for Sloan Proposal: DuraCloud Direct-To-Researcher

Dear Mr. Greenberg,

We are delighted to support the DuraSpace proposal to the Sloan Foundation entitled “DuraCloud Direct-To-Researcher.” In writing this letter, we represent the perspectives of both a research scientist and a research library in our respective roles at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

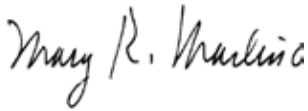
We are extremely interested in the Direct-To-Researcher proposition since it is focused directly on the needs of individual researchers and scientists. The DuraCloud model is compelling since it can bridge the researcher’s need for an easy solution for storing data with the institution’s interest in managing and preserving research data for the long term. We see the new Sloan project as synergistic with our existing partnership with DuraSpace in the context of the Data Conservancy. Most recently, we have worked with our Data Conservancy colleagues in an analysis of new models for integrating and managing inter-disciplinary data from both the atmospheric and social sciences. Sandy Payette from DuraSpace is collaborating with us in understanding technical requirements for data management systems to support our research on the impact of climate change. The analysis is framed around the new Romero-Lankao model for understanding urban vulnerability.

The DuraCloud Direct-To-Researcher service has the potential to make a valuable contribution to scientists by providing an easy cloud-based platform for research data. We are eager to engage in further analysis and design that can contribute to the evolution and testing of the DuraCloud platform to support researchers and data curators in addressing both immediate and long-term needs related to research data.

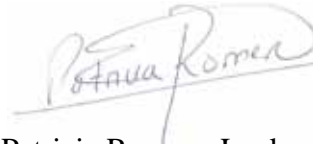
DuraSpace has an excellent track record in providing open source technologies and has put forth an innovative approach to bridging the work of researchers and data specialists in the proposed Sloan project. NCAR has been a partner and collaborator with DuraSpace on two major NSF-funded projects, the Data Conservancy and National Science Digital Library (NSDL). Both of these projects have integrated DuraSpace open source technologies as key parts of their technical infrastructure. In Data Conservancy, both the Fedora digital repository and DuraCloud are components of an emerging data and archiving infrastructure. In the context of the NSDL, Fedora is at the core of the collaboratively developed NSDL technical architecture, which has been in production for several years. We are confident that DuraSpace and its partners can develop an elegant and valuable solution to the complex challenges related to data management.

We look forward to the opportunity for continued collaboration with DuraSpace to better understanding these challenges and evolve this interesting work.

Sincerely,



Mary Marlino
Director of e-Science and Library
NCAR



Patricia Romero-Lankao
Scientist Climate Science and Applications
NCAR