

May 2, 2011

Michele Kimpton
Chief Executive Officer
DuraSpace
PO Box 7144
Ithaca, NY 14851

Dear Michele,

On behalf of ICPSR, I am pleased to support your proposal to the Sloan Foundation, "DuraCloud Direct to Researcher, easy data management in the cloud for researchers and scientists."

ICPSR is the world's largest archive of social science data. Since our creation in 1962, we have expanded to provide quantitative data across all social science disciplines. More than 700 universities and research organizations located around the world are ICPSR members, and we disseminate data for a range of government agencies and other groups, including the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute on Aging, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Our archive has more than 7500 research collections, some of which include hundreds of datasets. ICPSR was also one of the founding members of the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI), which has become a standard for metadata in the social sciences, and we provide the home office for the DDI Alliance.

We support your goal of creating a secure, easy to use, platform for storing research data. The research community needs the curation tools and connections to institutional infrastructure that you and your colleagues plan to develop. DuraSpace is ideally suited for this project, because of your support for two widely used repository architectures and the success of your recent development of DuraCloud, a managed cloud service for online archiving and preservation services.

We have been impressed with the technical competence and project skills exhibited by DuraSpace during the DuraCloud pilot, in which ICPSR participated.



ICPSR COUNCIL

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University of Texas at Austin

We look forward to continuing our working relationship with DuraSpace and providing feedback as you develop DuraCloud for the Researcher.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Alter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end.

George Alter
Acting Director, ICPSR
Professor of History