

The Sheridan Libraries

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Digital Knowledge Center
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Professor Charles F. Zukoski
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
420 Swanland Administration Building, MC-304
601 East John Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820

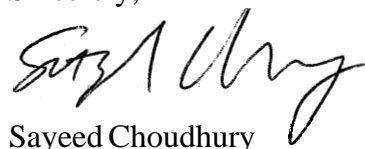
Dear Professor Zukoski:

I am writing this letter in response to a recent e-mail message from Professor J. Stephen Downie that described a proposal to establish, with cooperation from HNH, a music-based information-retrieval testbed with large amounts of high-quality audio to be hosted at NCSA. It is my understanding that access to this database will be available at nominal cost to music information retrieval scholars at other universities and research groups throughout the US and internationally.

I enthusiastically support such a proposal, especially given its potential to provide a valuable testbed for various, important activities in music IR. As the Director of the digital library research and development group within the Sheridan Libraries at Johns Hopkins University, I can already identify one existing project for which such a testbed would be helpful. My group is involved in developing a workflow management system, and associated searching tools, for an audio collection at the Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins. As part of this project, we intend to develop audio segmentation and searching software. The presence of the testbed at NCSA would offer an opportunity to develop this software in parallel to the digitization of audio tapes at Peabody, and provide an additional source of material for calibration and testing.

I look forward to finding out more regarding the conditions under which researchers could access this database.

Sincerely,



Sayeed Choudhury