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Letter of reference for Dr Philippe A. MARTIN  
regarding a project leader or senior researcher/lecturer position

I am a director of research at the Computer Science Department of the University of La Rochelle. Dr Martin (Senior Lecturer at Griffith University, Australia) and I have collaborated since January 2006. During this period, we have co-written two research grant projects and several international refereed publications: one book chapter, two journal articles and five conference articles.

Since June 2006 he is the co-supervisor of two of my PhD students at the L3i research laboratory (<http://www.univ-lr.fr/l3i>) and fulfills his task very well. The subjects of these PhD thesis are, respectively, «Semi-automatic and collaborative knowledge-based indexation, structuring and sharing of textual or multimedia information for learning or information retrieval within a knowledge server or in a semantic grid» and «Ontologies for the management (indexing, research, re-use, annotation) of learning objects». The proposal for the first PhD was written by Dr Martin, and both subjects fall within Dr Martin's research.

His knowledge representation related research is wide – ontologies, methodologies, formal notations, query/filtering mechanisms, cooperation protocols, links to source/generated documents, preparation to explanation generation, structured documents, multimedia – but always rooted in (and validated by) his development of knowledge acquisition tools and knowledge servers aimed to support the organization, sharing and retrieval of information. Furthermore, Dr Martin applied his research to many domains, for example on lexicons, databases, learning resources, debates on ethical issues, a tourism site, an auction site, and an ontology of knowledge engineering. His tools and knowledge servers (CGKAT, WebKB-1 and WebKB-2) are complementary and original: nowadays, 1) CGKAT is the knowledge acquisition tool or hypertext system which most integrates knowledge base management with document management, 2) WebKB-1 is the knowledge server which most permits people to mix, relate and exploit expressive knowledge representations with other document elements within Web documents, and 3) WebKB-2 is the only knowledge server which permits its users to cooperatively build a (very large) consistent knowledge base *without* having to discuss and agree on terminology nor beliefs. The implementation of these tools (100,000 lines of source code in C++/Lex/Yacc/Javascript, plus the re-used libraries) demonstrates that Dr Martin can pursue and achieve a long term goal.

During our collaboration, and especially during our co-writing of articles, Dr Martin demonstrated two unusually developed qualities: 1) his reliability and 2) his attention to details and to consistency. From July 2000 to December 2003, Dr Martin was a senior researcher at the Australian's Distributed Systems Technology Center (W3C's Australian Office) and project leader of the WebKB-2 project from January 2003. Finally, he has the experience of international cooperation: France, Australia, Italy, USA, Switzerland, etc. To conclude, I have no doubt that his qualities and expertise will make him an efficient project leader or senior researcher/lecturer.



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