**Research Report: MySQL**

**Objective:** Determine whether MySQL provides a suitable database for our project.

**Findings:** MySQL is a free relational database system. It is commonly used in many domains. Though originally released in 1995, it is still actively maintained. It is currently owned by Oracle Corporation.

**Pros**:

* Relational database system is suitable for our data
* Team familiar with MySQL
* Free
* Available on multiple platforms (Windows, Mac, Linux)
* Part of XAMPP stack

**Cons**:

* Basic, lacks full suite of features provided by other database systems
* Relies on business layer to implement more complex functionality

**Conclusion**: MySQL is reliable, fast and free. Taking into account those factors as well as the team’s familiarity with it, we have decided to use MySQL in the project.