

Open access and journal publishing: Announcing *Lincoln Planning Review*

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An Invited Address to the *Lincoln University Planning Association* and Colleagues

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Abstract

Since its inception the journal [Lincoln Planning Review](#) has been available digitally from the Lincoln University website. Originally published in the format of a single document for each issue, and requiring a manual production technique, the journal is now created using an editor operated journal publishing system. [Open Journal Systems](#) (OJS) is open source software currently being utilised by more than 12,000 journals worldwide. Lincoln University supports an open access environment and the announcement of *Lincoln Planning Review* adapting its production to use this platform reinforces the commitment to making research and scholarly work more openly available. In the global context Lincoln University is responding to both technology and contemporary culture by upholding the principle of providing public access to publicly funded research and scholarship.

Keywords

Electronic journal management, publishing systems, student publications, Open Journal Systems (OJS), open access, planning, Lincoln University

Introduction

Lincoln Planning Review is a student led journal which started publication in January 2009. It has been available in PDF format from the website of the Faculty of Environment, Society and Design at Lincoln University since then. The journal is now managed from its own website using the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform and its stated aims are to “create a supportive environment with opportunities for developing professional skills such as editing, critical reflection of work, and the art of effective communication”¹.

¹ Lincoln Planning Review in Transition. Introductory announcement published for Lincoln Planning Review launch at: <http://journals.lincoln.ac.nz/index.php/LPR>

The change in production method reflects developments in technology and the momentum of the wider open access movement, which is occurring on a global scale. The desire to establish a unique site for hosting the journal, and the application of the policy to create one file per article rather than one file per issue, is fundamental to successful indexing and harvesting and therefore provides the most benefit for the author. Making changes to methods of production, mechanisms for providing access, and adopting many of the standards and policies of our peers worldwide, will allow the research and scholarship of Lincoln University and its authors the higher profile they deserve.

Open Access in the Global Environment

The open access movement worldwide is gathering strength and support. Large scholarly publishers are being pressured to end full restrictions on allowing the publisher versions of journal articles being available from institutional repositories, and instead negotiate a short embargo period. Central to this recommended change is the recognition by government that publically funded research should be publically available with free access for all. Adding to the momentum is the continuing problem of escalating costs as inflation increases the base price of journals and the quantity of journal content expands. The traditional model is no longer able to sustain the growth in knowledge and the desire to publish.

With increased open access to research and scholarly content there is greater need for clear guidelines on how each item can be used and repurposed. The application of a Creative Commons licence has popular support. The system uses an internationally recognised set of six licences, all of which include attribution and a mix of other features either allowing or disallowing reuse, repurposing or commercialisation.

Researchers are also benefiting from the developing open access environment. Depositing research in an institutional repository increases the number of successful results found by search engines, and raises the quantity of citations. In addition, researchers find they can access nearly all content, not just affordable content.

Open access provides researchers with a much wider audience increasing the dissemination of ideas and research outputs. It also challenges established modes of determining research impact and scholarship.

Open Access at Lincoln University

Library, Teaching and Learning at Lincoln University supports the global open access initiatives to make research and scholarly work freely available. Researchers and students are encouraged to submit their eligible research outputs to the Lincoln University Research Archive, the university's institutional repository to maximise visibility, usability, and accessibility. The use of a Creative Commons licence is recommended to ensure appropriate attribution and the correct mix of licencing elements, since the item will be available with a persistent link in perpetuity.

Library, Teaching and Learning staff are available to assist with copyright, establishing author's rights, and the selection of a Creative Commons licence. A particular strength is interpreting the type of outputs which can be included in the portfolio of an emerging researcher and assisting with defining their bibliographic profile and database identity.

Digital availability of research and scholarship is promoted using the Lincoln University Research Archive, and the Journals @ Lincoln site.

Producing *Lincoln Planning Review* with Publishing Software

The changes in production of *Lincoln Planning Review* has enabled a move from single files for each issue to multiple files for each article, thus allowing more comprehensive indexing, harvesting, attribution, and recognition of the content and author.

Selecting the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform has meant *Lincoln Planning Review* has its own website to facilitate the refereed publishing process. This allows the creation of journal sections to highlight themes, sets a style and format for the content, and avoids the need for a more complex columnar layout.

The OJS software offers a full publishing structure from submission to online publication. It supports double blind peer review, and separates the authors from the editorial process. There are ten roles including Journal Manager, Editor, Copy Editor, Reviewer, and Author. A flexible electronic mailing list permits the categorisation of messaging to each or any of the roles, whether a call for papers, instructions to reviewers, or an announcement to all registered participants.

It provides a real time solution to publishing where articles can be published as they are written, or they can be assembled in the familiar format of a traditional journal. OJS indexes by author and title automatically as content is published, and the software uses the OAI-PMH (Open Access Initiative – Protocol for Metadata Harvesting) system for harvesting to ensure access by Google and other international search engines.²

OJS is an editor operated journal publishing system which can be managed with a small team to produce journals issues regularly to your schedule in a sustainable way.

Conclusion

The Journals @ Lincoln site offers a flexible and manageable solution for publishing research and scholarly work and is an alternative to submitting outputs to traditional publishers. It is an additional way to collect and disseminate knowledge in a journal style without incurring all the associated costs that accompany the established publishing model. The establishment of Journals @ Lincoln highlights the proactive response and commitment made by staff at Lincoln University to advance the values and benefits of open access.

² Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting: <http://www.openarchives.org/pmh/>

This Research Paper is accompanied by a Presentation of the same title. Both documents are made available under a Creative Commons licence from the Lincoln University Research Archive at:

<http://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/>



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