

# Archiving Landscape Architecture Research and Scholarship in the Lincoln University Research Archive

An Invited Address to the  
**School of Landscape Architecture**

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Roger G. Dawson

This paper provides an outline of the current opportunities for archiving research and scholarship at Lincoln University, and was prepared to accompany the oral presentation of the same name presented to the School of Landscape Architecture, in advance of their fortieth anniversary and the opening of the new Landscape Architecture Building at Lincoln University.

## **Abstract**

Lincoln University has developed an institutional repository to collect, organise and provide access to digital formats of research outputs and scholarly work. The Lincoln University Research Archive has been established to ensure there is preservation of these digital objects, to improve the likelihood of other researchers locating the outputs of the university, and to raise the visibility and impact of research produced by the organisation. The forthcoming completion of the new building for the School of Landscape Architecture (SoLA), and the events planned for the approaching fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the School at Lincoln University, provides a platform for focussing on collecting outputs from current staff, students, and alumni, highlighting the value of their achievements.

**Keywords:** digital preservation, digital collections, open access, retrospective digitisation, institutional repositories, communicating scholarly work, School of Landscape Architecture (SoLA), Lincoln University

## **History and Background**

The Lincoln University Research Archive was established in June 2007 to provide a place for the collection of the research outputs and scholarly work of the staff, students, and alumni of Lincoln University. Digital theses were mandated for deposit from 1 January 2008 while the uploading of digital dissertations was made optional at the discretion of the author with supervisor permission. The deposit provisions for either a thesis or a dissertation allow a short term access embargo to be

applied to enable the scholarly work, in part or in full, to be published elsewhere before it is made digitally available from the Research Archive.

The success of this initiative has meant there is also support for widening the collection of outputs to include research reports, discussion papers, conference papers and posters, and other university research publications. Outputs may be deposited in the archive if they have one or more Lincoln authors and can date from the time of the founding of the organisation in 1878.

A digital collection has been created for the School of Landscape Architecture, within the larger community of the Environment, Society and Design Division in the Research Archive. While there are some SoLA theses and dissertations mapped to this collection it would be advantageous to collect the outputs of current staff and students in time for the celebrations planned for the opening of the new building and the fortieth anniversary of the School of Landscape Architecture.

### **Options and Initiatives**

The options under consideration for further development of the SoLA digital collection include the establishment of a Project Report series to highlight the scholarly work and research of the staff and students of the School, using the Research Archive to make these outputs digitally available as they are produced. Another separate collection could also be used to contain the eventual retrospective digitisation of *Landscape Review*, the flagship double blind peer reviewed journal originating from the School and published since 1995, and its ongoing future production. The earlier unrelated and now ceased publication titled *The Landscape* which was based at Lincoln University for many years, could also be digitised and disseminated from this separate digital collection. Any Lincoln authored articles from these publications could be archived in the main SoLA collection in the Research Archive.

The repository environment also provides the opportunity to collect student work at the level of the Major Design Studies, and some of the associated data that underpins this form of scholarly work.

The value of dissertations could also be recognised with their inclusion in a collection alongside or integrated with the Landscape theses. A brochure has been produced which highlights the theses and dissertations of past and current SoLA students and to encourage these authors to sign a licence agreement to enable their work to be digitised and made available on open access. The licence is an integral part of the brochure which can be returned to the Library once the relevant details are completed. See the Appendix below.

The sharing of landscape architecture outputs and resources among students, staff, and alumni, research colleagues, designers in practice, and the wider community has yet to be achieved on a large scale. There is a significant volume of content waiting to be digitised which could be made available digitally on open access, but it will require discussions to be held regarding permissions and copyright, and an ongoing source of regular funding to support the initiative if it were to be extended on a national basis. There are encouraging signs from current practitioners that such a site would be desirable for the capture of New Zealand's scholarly, commercial, and research outputs produced by the landscape architecture community, as it would benefit all those currently associated with the profession, and would serve those who join the community in the future.

## **Celebrate SoLA**

The construction of the nearly completed purpose built facilities for the School of Landscape Architecture at Lincoln University provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate the profession and focus on the ongoing development of tertiary education for landscape architects in New Zealand. It is an opportunity to promote the facilities by showcasing the building plans and designs online, and inviting the publication of a student article on the topic of the new building perhaps with an incentive award or prize.

It is also timely to reconnect with recent graduates, experienced practitioners and other alumni, especially those in related fields of endeavour, and take the opportunity to research, write and publish with the current students and staff of the School of Landscape Architecture.

## **Upload to the Research Archive**

The alumni of the School of Landscape Architecture are encouraged to deposit their thesis, dissertation or exemplary scholarly work produced while studying at Lincoln so it can be made available from the Lincoln University Research Archive. The collection of Lincoln authored research outputs from a range of sources, and a selection of the best scholarly work including student projects, will provide both a sound record of achievement and a platform for further research.

## **Bibliography**

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## **Appendix**

Lincoln University Thesis and Dissertation licence brochure July 2008.