

Preserving scholarly work and research outputs in the Lincoln University Research Archive

An Invited Address to the
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Summary of speakers notes

History and background

The Lincoln University Research Archive was established in June 2007 as an institutional repository for the research outputs of Lincoln University. The first priority was to create an online archive for the collection of theses which were mandated from 1 January 2008. The Research Archive was identified as the place for the ongoing deposit of new theses and dissertations, and for other university publications including research reports, discussion papers and working papers.

Retrospective archiving

A project to upload retrospectively digitised theses from the lending collection was started in 2007, with a particular focus on doctoral theses and the higher use Masters theses. Some frequently borrowed dissertations have also been digitised and are being made available. All theses and dissertations require author permission before they can be released on open access as they are scholarly work, and for dissertations supervisor permission is also sought. Theses and dissertations are held in a restricted digital collection until author permission can be requested, and during this time can only be accessed by staff and students of Lincoln University.

Concurrently there is an initiative to upload other types of outputs on request by researchers as time allows. Academics that are leaving the university are usually approached for permission to have their research outputs collected and included in the Research Archive for long term preservation.

Copyright and Licensing

The Copyright Act 1994 applies to all outputs in the Research Archive, and authors may specify additional terms and conditions of use. Detecting plagiarism can be difficult with print resources, but is often easier to trace with a digital output, using online tools.

A restriction on access can be requested for items deposited, and the output can have access limited to Lincoln University staff and students only, but the preference is for open access since that is one of the founding principles of the institutional repository. An embargo may be applied to an output where the content of the document needs to have restricted access for a limited time. This is an option that can be selected during the thesis deposit process, usually limited to two years or less,

and mostly for reasons which include the intention to publish, for commercial or stakeholder expectations, or cultural sensitivity. The ownership of the intellectual property of the work is not changed by it being collected in the archive.

Scholarly Communication

Open access is a well-established model for communicating scholarly work, and many universities now provide their working paper, discussion paper, and research report series in a digital format. It is a formal but recognisable method of scholarly communication where print copies no longer need to be distributed.

Future Focus

The plan for increasing the content of the Research Archive over the long term includes collecting all research outputs produced by Lincoln College and Lincoln University, but with clear priorities on theses and dissertations, and recent research outputs.

The archive will be used to store the digital outputs required for the PBRF where publisher copyright allows. The deposit process generates a persistent URL which will be beneficial for ensuring the ongoing validity of the link to the item for the PBRF. Ideally we should be able to provide access to the majority of the top four Nominated Research Outputs (NROs) for assessment, and to a significant number of supporting outputs from each portfolio.

The further advantage of having a persistent URL for each output is the ability to use it in a reference list, or on a staff web page.

The Research Archive will be used to support digital publishing, and may in time overtake the need to have most university print publications produced and distributed in print.

New staff, emerging researchers, and postgraduate students will be encouraged to deposit research outputs as they are produced.

Related Services

The Kiwi Research Information Service (KRIS) harvests research outputs from the Lincoln University Research Archive and from all other New Zealand university repositories, and some polytechnic repositories.

The National Digital Heritage Archive has been established to ensure the ongoing collection, preservation and accessibility of New Zealand's digital heritage collections.

The Directory of Open Access Journals is a directory of freely accessible online journals which qualify for inclusion by meeting a set of expectations such as open access, quality control, and regular production.

OAlster is a collection of freely available digital resources formerly managed by the University of Michigan University Library, which is now accessible through OCLC, the Online Computer Library Center in Ohio, a non-profit membership cooperative.

Google Scholar, a well-known source of full text documents and other content

See the websites of these related services for more information.