

Editorial

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The last few weeks have seen much spirited debate about the publication of our professional journals. The catalyst for the current outcry was the disappearance of online copies of the back issues of the Australian Society of Archivists' journal, *Archives and Manuscripts*. Subsequent discussion highlighted very restrictive ownership conditions being imposed by the new publisher, Taylor and Francis. To add fuel to the fire, it later emerged that the *Archives and Manuscripts* copyright provisions were much more draconian than those for the Australian library journals also published by Taylor and Francis.

This is all very relevant to any consideration of the future of *Archifacts*, which from an editorial perspective often seems to face an uphill battle to remain feasible. The journal does not have a high profile, and one consequence of this is that academics and those embarking on an academic career are sometimes reluctant to publish in *Archifacts*. The work of getting an issue published is not for the faint hearted, and is certainly not a one person operation. The need for a high profile and the complexity of the publishing infrastructure have been significant motivators for other journal editors to decide to outsource production to a commercial publisher.

Nevertheless, the quality of content in each of the three issues I have been involved with to date has been such that I remain convinced that efforts are worthwhile. Publishing on a shoestring may seem to be hard work, but the alternative route of 'professional' publishing certainly has been shown to have a substantial downside.

The majority of the papers in this issue were originally presented at the ARANZ conference held in October 2012. The first three papers were keynote addresses. Greg Goulding and David Fricker presented at the start of the conference, and Ray Edmondson at the conclusion. All three papers are stirring stuff indeed, and together provide critical insight into the issues and challenges faced in our current environment. The next three papers all provide fascinating views into different areas of our diverse practice environment. Caroline McBride's focus is the archives of artists at the Auckland Art Gallery. Kate De Courcy and Mary Donald provide a musically inspired elucidation of responsibilities in successful

contracting projects. Janet Upton and Alison Midwinter present a detailed and very useful account of the digitisation challenges faced by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ).

The concluding two papers have both been subject to peer review. Dirk von Suchodeletz, Euan Cochrane and Mick Crouch describe a digital preservation success story which will fascinate anyone interested in the technical details of what is often regarded as being a 'niche' digital preservation strategy, emulation. Coincidentally, the database that is the focus of the paper is also from LINZ. The final paper is Leah Johnston's very useful review of Archives 2.0 literature. Leah's paper references New Zealand student research as well as more traditional publications, and in so doing helps to demonstrate the importance of having a local professional journal.

The book reviews that complete this issue also have a New Zealand focus. As always, the reviews are fascinating reading, and all three book titles have now definitely been added to my wish list.