

Proposed Conference Session on Archive Buildings

In conjunction with the ICA Congress in Brisbane in August 2012 the National Archives of Australia proposes to conduct a conference session involving modern developments in the design and construction of archive buildings.

The session would involve representatives from France, South Korea, and Germany. These three countries have built, or are currently constructing, buildings which are at the forefront in using design techniques.

The session would focus on issues involving environmental standards and 'green' buildings. Such issues would include:

- use of building materials to better control internal environmental conditions, with reduced reliance on airconditioning systems;
- reductions in energy usage, eg. time-controlled lighting; and
- rainwater harvesting and usage.

Perhaps the most important issue confronting archive institutions today involves environmental standards. Most institutions base their current standards on Gary Thomson's *The Museum Environment* first published in 1977, however, in recent years some researchers have critically reviewed the standards that this book provides, asserting that they are costly to achieve and unnecessarily high, and should be reduced without any detrimental effect to long-term record preservation. The roundtable would canvas views on current standards and ways by which they can successfully be varied.

Invitees to the roundtable would be asked to discuss what methodologies they used to resolve these and other issues during the design and construction of their buildings. They would also be encouraged to speak freely concerning which processes were successful and which were not, and what might possibly be done differently if planning and construction were to begin over again.

The names of the persons speaking at the conference session will be provided as soon as possible.