With effect from the next volume the International Journal of Law in the Built Environment (IJLBE) is pleased to announce the launch of a new guest editorial feature. This is an important development for a journal that seeks to challenge established disciplinary and other approaches, and to encourage new perspectives on knowledge, and knowledge creation, within its areas of operation.

Previous editorials have explored the breadth of meaning that can be attributed to the term “legal scholarship” and it is hoped that some of these discussions might have provided food for thought for legal scholars, as well as for their counterparts within the built environment disciplines. But they represent the views of a single editor who, until now, has had the unique privilege of being able to indulge his own ideas in a peer-reviewed journal in a format which is exempt from normal academic conventions or expectations.

Those with differing perspectives have had no equivalent right of reply and no similarly privileged vehicle in which to explore their own views on the issues in question, or indeed on any other tentative issues and ideas that could usefully be introduced to readers of the journal.

An Invitation for Radical Thinking

The launch of this journal's guest editorial feature therefore provides an important opportunity for other writers to utilise their intellectual creativity and, through argument and reason, to contribute something novel to the broader discipline that might not be possible (or permissible) in the format of a peer-reviewed article. The scope of such editorials in this particular journal is almost unlimited. It has been suggested above that they might address the nature of legal scholarship but they could certainly do far more than this. They would normally be expected to relate, in some way, to either law or the built environment, in an academic, policy or professional context. They might equally, however, have something broader to say, for example about current developments in higher education, or indeed about some more general feature of society.

Search Functionality

In common with other Emerald journals that include a guest editorial feature, editorials published in the IJLBE will include full search functionality in order to enhance their visibility and therefore their capacity for citation in future academic publications. They will be easily discoverable online through incorporation in the
Emerald database and the inclusion of abstracts, search tags and reference links. All editorials submitted to the journal for possible publication should, therefore, include a structured abstract and keywords in the same way as the peer-reviewed articles published within its pages. Editorials should be a minimum of 1,500 words in length (not including the structured abstract) but should not exceed 5,000 words.

**Invitation to Readers**

Readers are, therefore, invited to use this new facility as a soapbox from which to expound and test their novel and original ideas. As will be clear from the above account, although all contributions must be properly argued, and responsibly (and respectfully) expressed, this is certainly an invitation for radical thinking. Potential authors are invited to contact the editor in advance with an outline of potential guest editorials before submitting the final copy for possible publication in the journal. This is anticipated that this new feature will be attractive to authors as well as having the potential to increase the influence and visibility of a journal that strives for academic excellence but also for open-mindedness and tolerance of new ways of thinking.

**Latest Issue Downloadable**

Subscribers to the journal can download the latest issue from the journal’s website (see here). For non-subscribers access is limited to the abstracts only.

**About IJLBE**

The IJLBE provides a vehicle for the publication of high quality legal research in the context of the design, construction, management and use of the built environment. It publishes up-to-date and original contributions for the benefit of scholars, policy makers and practitioners in these areas, including those operating in the fields of legal practice, housing, planning, architecture, surveying, construction management, real estate and property management.

**Additional Information**

Authors are most welcome to contact the editor in advance for advice on the suitability of potential manuscripts.

Contact Paul Chynoweth
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