

I chose this article because I wanted to analyze something different than the usual archival material I have been looking for when it comes to the subject of archival budgeting and research: A sense of permanence. I grew up with the concept that there are only three limited resources that were handed to us as a sentient being. The first was space, the area and location which is valued based on the resources or services that the given location provided. The second was knowledge because we can only learn so much before we reach our peak and eventually must dilute information to make space for new information. The final resource is time, the most essential of all and the resource that affects the rest. The one I am focusing on is space, because while we do cover all these resources in the career we are pursuing, I wanted to talk about the unique case for space: Landmarks

The article talks about the Spiral Jetty in Utah which is a uniquely crafted sculpture.

“ Smithsonian and a construction team, led by Bob Phillips, completed it over a three-week period in April 1970.³⁸ The jetty consists of over 6,000 tons of locally sourced rocks and earth, arranged in a coil 1,500 feet long and 15 feet wide, extending from the edge of the lake's shore into the water (England, 2017).

The idea behind the examination of the structure was to observe the changes through time and photographic evidence gathered or ill obtained souvenirs from tourists who continued to alter the state of the site. There were significant images taken of the site and when analyzing them you can see the change from its original state to it's added layers of salt crystals which show the passage of time. In the case of record management for the site, there were significant information stored about its creation. Smithsonian wrote an initial essay talking about his designs and methods for the sculpture itself. Examining the piece is an opportunity to understand the significant of a provisional piece of evidence. What used to be in the landmark that was created has now significantly changed. We only get a limited amount of time to enjoy something before it is erased from our culture's memory. We may attempt to hold on to every piece of knowledge we can in the database, but eventually that database will also be full, and we will have to choose what leaves us.

References

England, E. (2017). The archive of place and land art as archive: a case study of spiral jett. Retrieved from <https://americanarchivist.org/doi/full/10.17723/0360-9081-80.2.336>