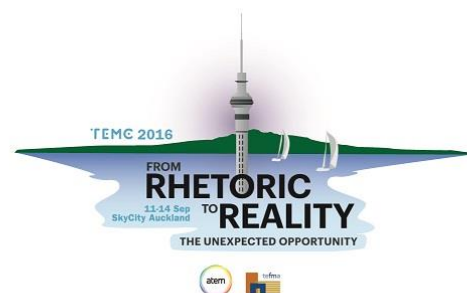


**Concurrent Session A**  
**Monday 12 September 2016**  
**10.50am – 11.40am**

**Session 1**  
**Not All Space Is Equal: Go8 Case Studies**  
**Jade Germantis, Dr Elizabeth Kuczek**  
*University of Melbourne, Group of Eight*



*Jade Germantis leads the Spatial Data team at The University of Melbourne. For over 11 years, Jade has cultivated and lead an ongoing program of technological spatial data development resulting in the transformation of the University's spatial data platforms from a static-information based environment, into a digital and dynamic resource of 'live' spatial information supporting university operations. Jade has promoted constructive local and international peer evaluation opportunities delivering more comprehensive articulation of space analyses and the delivery of the University's campus strategy. Significant financial savings and business process efficiencies have been realised due to the program.*

*Jade has lead and mentored a team of technical specialists in driving the most optimal utilisation of the University's portfolio of space, with a focus on strategically managing the University's specialist spatial systems. These systems deliver the University's \$156 million per annum space charging model on an 800,000m<sup>2</sup> footprint equating to a \$2.9 billion Property Portfolio.*

*Elizabeth Kuczek has been a space analyst for the Go8 Facilities Directors group since 2013, and has worked with Go8 Space Managers in improving space mapping and benchmarking. Elizabeth has over 30 years' experience working in various Australian universities, as well as at the University of California, San Francisco, in diverse roles as a research scientist, operations manager of a national Facility, and as a project manager. She brings into her daily work her commercial, academic and operational experience and knowledge of tertiary sector environments. Elizabeth is a PhD graduate of the University of Adelaide.*

Benchmarking has its merits as a comparative (scoring) measure against a standard or against best practice. Whilst the primary aim of benchmarking is to improve performance of a process, practise or outcome, benchmarking for comparison of practices that are suitable to your own organization is equally important. The two approaches can/should complement one another. The Go8 universities share a similar history, educational ethos and strategic challenges, and in a constantly shifting operating environment, these shared features present similar challenges. The Go8 group shared and compared quantitative/ qualitative data which was informative to the individual institutions, and the group as a whole, with the added benefit of being able to report on estate performance not previously captured. Whilst appropriate peer group benchmarking is very useful, it was decided to not limit the benchmarking to institutions that are most similar. This broader context of comparisons provides valuable information and a meaningful view of the estate, not only for a space and Facilities Management perspective, but also for Executive Management and for lobbying to Government.

This presentation looks at both Go8 and publically available data to make comparisons internally, and externally with the Australian tertiary sector and the Russell Group (24 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, outstanding teaching and learning

experience and links with business and the public sector). Examples of benchmarking work and case studies to be presented:

SEI (Services and Equipment Intensive) space

Room Function codes – a useful dimension to space mapping and reporting

Research space

Building information archive and discipline space standards

International benchmarking

The selected case studies cover benchmarking comparisons at a (1) whole of institution level, (2) sector level, (3) discipline-specific level, and (4) standards-based level.

The presentation will also address how benchmarking of space and functions can enhance long term outcomes for an Institution's or sector's key performance indicators. It will highlight the challenges in definition interpretation, especially as it relates to emerging innovations in delivery of core activities of teaching, learning and research by the tertiary sector, and the need to review which benchmarks are useful and commensurate with these innovative spaces.