

Memorandum of Understanding
between
The Time Layered Cultural Map of Australia Platform (TLCMap)
and
Systemik Solutions

TLCMap is open-access and open-source and is designed in the first instance to allow humanities scholars to create maps for their research unaided, as a free infrastructural service. TLCMap forms part of the Australian national information commons: users take advantage of existing layers and contribute their own layers, adding to the common resource. The platform is hosted on the Nectar Research Cloud. Support for maintenance and development comes from grants and co-investments from national research and infrastructure agencies – principally the ARC and ARDC – and from the universities which have joined TLCMap consortia over the years. The University of Newcastle has been the lead institution since the platform's inception.

We have an established partnership with the IT company Systemik Solutions. Systemik is a trusted and effective provider of maintenance and development work for the platform. They have a proven track record in providing assistance on a consultation basis for third parties whose projects go beyond the model of the individual unaided TLCMap user. This assistance is typically for the scoping and planning of projects, developing new bespoke features, onboarding data, integration with other organisations and systems, and staff training. By agreement of all parties some part of the funding for the support provided by Systemik to third parties is devoted to resolving bugs as they arise and to improving basic functionality. Any new features developed as part of Systemik contracts are made available to all TLCMap users.

Systemik do not have any exclusive claim on providing support for TLCMap and TLCMap will continue to maintain its independence from Systemik. Code will be stored in Github and saved regularly and will be available from GitHub under a CC BY licence for anyone interested to build a complete separate instance of the platform elsewhere. Systemik understand that TLCMap has an open-source and open-data philosophy, does not intend to undertake proprietary development, and will remain free to users.

Systemik have a deep technical knowledge of TLCMap systems and a familiarity with the approach of the TLCMap team that would be difficult and expensive to replicate. The partnership with Systemik aids the sustainability of TLCMap through Systemik's experience with the platform and availability for speedy and cost-effective maintenance and development as required. Systemik's commitment to undertaking some maintenance as part of contracts with third parties is also a contribution to the sustainability of the platform.