

The Place of Surveying: What is our Position?

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SUMMARY

Land surveyors have long considered their occupation a profession. They have enjoyed rank and status since at least as early as Egyptian and Roman societies. The boundaries between professions, and their related academic disciplines, become blurred as knowledge of the world increases exponentially in depth and breadth. Professional practice consequently requires an ever greater specialisation. Professionally many aspects of land surveying are closely associated with engineering. Academically land surveying is closely associated with geography. The field of geographical information systems is creating tensions in some countries as it looks to establish itself as a vocation, a discipline and as a profession in its own right. As the profession of land surveying undergoes technological revolution, particularly with respect to the digital environment and the acquisition and management of data, it is an appropriate time to re-examine professional and academic relationships and definitions that determine the connections between these related endeavours.