Scholarly Sharing Networks and the Revenge of the Paywall

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Today’s Agenda

- What is ResearchGate?
- Recent Developments
- How Library Services can Support Scholarly Sharing
What is ResearchGate?
“Academic Social Networks”
Business Model
The construction of online identities or persona is now an essential activity for the academic both from the perspective of university value and individual/career value.

The academic online: Constructing persona through the World Wide Web by Kim Barbour and David Marshall. 
First Monday, Volume 17, Number 9 - 3 September 2012
doi:10.5210/fm.v0i0.3969
Rapid Adoption and Use by Researchers

Comparative visits by site, December 2015 – November 2016

- ResearchGate: 710,700,000 visits
- ScienceDirect: 528,700,000 visits
- Wiley Online Library: 361,100,000 visits
- SpringerLink: 321,600,000 visits
- Nature: 312,700,000 visits
- Sci-Hub: 110,300,000 visits

Effective “Email Marketing”
Nudging Users Towards Sharing

We've found 1 more of your full-texts online
Upload it now to add it to your profile.

Your article doesn't have a full-text yet
Add the full-text of your article so that others can read and cite it.

Add a public full-text
Make it accessible to everyone.

Store a private full-text
Share the full-text on request
Discoverability and Availability
How do researchers understand copyright and ownership of their work?

Difficult Conversations
Competition or Complement?
http://doi.org/10.7710/2162-3309.2183
Recent Developments

#ResearchGate
STM sends letter to ResearchGate

Claims that as many as 7 million copyrighted articles (40% of content) are freely available
**SEPT 2017:** The International Association of Scientific Technical and Medical Publishers sends a letter to ResearchGate. They developed *Voluntary Principles on Article Sharing* they want ResearchGate to comply with.

**Why is this significant?**
- STM is the leading global trade association for academic and professional publishers
- Collectively members publish 66% of all journal articles
- Members include: Elsevier, IEEE, Nature Publishing Group, Taylor and Francis, Wiley, etc.

**Their solution?**
- Adhering to their *Voluntary Principles*
- Addressing alleged infringing content
- They must respond in 7 days, otherwise individual members can deal with this issue as they see fit.

ResearchGate “rejects” proposal & publishers take divergent paths in response
Path 1: The Coalition of Society and Commercial Publishers

- Forms rather quickly (October 2017)
- **Members:** American Chemical Society, Brill, Elsevier, Wiley and Wolters Kluwer
  - *Something to think about:* Why is the Coalition made up of so few STM members?
The Coalition’s approach

- **Paper by paper solution**
  - Members of the Coalition issuing takedown (DMCA) notices to ResearchGate
- Coalition believes this action will be “highly disruptive to the research community”
- *Elsevier and American Chemical Society are taking further legal action to address web scraping* (more [here](#))
ResearchGate’s Response

- ResearchGate is complying with takedown notices
- They “proactively” changed settings on uploaded content from Coalition publishers from public to “private share mode” rather than being removed completely (more here)
Important Sidenote:

- Note that publishers **do not** issue takedown notices to the individual researcher (even though they upload content)
  - PR problem for publishers
  - Elsevier targeted Academia.edu in 2013. Lots of researcher backlash.
- **Good read:** Does ResearchGate Emerge Unscathed, or Even Strengthened? (Scholarly Kitchen, Oct 2017)

Image Credit: ResearchGate
Path 2: Publisher partnerships with ResearchGate

- Springer Nature, Cambridge University Press, Thieme and ResearchGate announce new cooperation
- The spin: *this partnership features “publishers who want to help and support content sharing and believe that working with ResearchGate...is one of the important means to achieving this”*
- How?
  - Educate users about their rights by providing users with more and better information about how and when they may share
  - Remove content promptly when alerted by publishers
  - RG to provide better visibility into usage of content on their platform that was original published in their journals

How can Libraries Support Scholarly Sharing?
Why is there a conflict?
Traditional Scholarly Publishing Value Chain

- Funding
- Research
- Writing
- Review
- Production
- Distribution
- Purchase
- Access

Restricted Access
- Copy of Record
- Electronic Subscription

Sponsor
- National Institutes of Health
- Funds Researcher

Researcher
- Gives Copyright to Publisher

Publisher
- Holds Copyright, Sells Access

Library
- Purchases Access to Articles

University Leadership Council. 2011. *Redefining the academic library: Managing the migration to digital information services*, p. 40
How does self-archiving meet your goals?

Why?

- Long term availability
- Possibility of takedown
- Lack of preservation mandate
- Future of a commercial platform
- Funders’ OA policy compliance

How?

- Sharing consistent with publishers’ self-archiving policies (article versions, embargo, etc.)
- Consider keeping eggs in multiple baskets

... but they make it so easy!

SHERPA/RoMEO database of publisher copyright policies
http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/index.php
Why are academic research networks attractive?
Alternatives and complements

Institutional or subject repositories
- Permanent URLs
- Preservation mandate
- Search engine indexing
- Non-commercial (mostly)
- OA policy compliance
- More permissive self-archiving policies

Research repository

Faculty profiles

Networking

Institutional faculty profiles/ websites/ bibliographies
- Control over content & hosting
- Non-commercial (mostly)

ORCID
- Author record with auto-population option
- Non-commercial

Combine online profile with institutional/subject repository for file storage
Different research repository options

**Institutional Repositories**
- Canadian institutional repositories ([CARL list](https://carl.org/))
- Adoptive repository option for researchers whose institutions do not have IRs ([CARL list](https://carl.org/))

**Subject/disciplinary repositories**
- E.g. Humanities Commons, PhilPapers, etc.
- Directory of Open Access Repositories [OpenDOAR](https://opendoar.net/)

**Preprint servers**
- E.g. ArXiv.org, OSF Preprints
  - Subject repositories
- May be restricted to preprints only or accept broader materials

**Data repositories**
- E.g. Dataverse ([OCUL hosted](https://dataverse.oclc.org/)), Zenodo
- Institutional or subject repositories may accept data as well

Mind the changing landscape of repository ownership
# Academic social networks vs open access repositories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Open Access Repositories</th>
<th>Academia.edu</th>
<th>ResearchGate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long-term preservation</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports export or harvesting</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Access with no login walls</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business model</td>
<td>Nonprofit (usually)</td>
<td>Commercial (sells job posting services, hopes to sell data)</td>
<td>Commercial (sells ads, job posting services)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wants your address book</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sends you lots of emails (by default)</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulfils Tri-Agency OA policy</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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[http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)  
University of California OSC
Understanding funders OA mandates

- In Canada - Tri-Agency Open Access Policy: CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC
- The policy only applies to peer-reviewed publications
- Must be OA no later than 12 months after publication
- Only research published as a result of grants awarded by NSERC or SSHRC from May 1, 2015 and onward; and by CIHR from January 1, 2008 and onward

Library support for OA publishing

● **On campus publishing via:**
  ○ Hosting of publishing platforms for faculty and students such as Open Journal Systems or Open Monograph Press, etc.
  ○ Partnership with university press
  ○ Support for creation and adaptation of Open Educational Resources on campus

● **OA publishing consortia and flipping models, such as:**
  ○ Knowledge Unlatched
  ○ SCOAP3
  ○ OA2020
Further Reading:

- ResearchGate: Publishers Take Formal Steps to Force Copyright Compliance
  https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2017/10/06/researchgate-publishers-take-formal-steps-force-copyright-compliance/
- I HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS: RG, ELS, SN, STM, AND CRS by Lisa Hinchliffe
  https://lisahinchliffe.com/tag/researchgate/
- Academics and Copyright Ownership: Ignorant, Confused or Misled?
- Institutional Repositories and Academic Social Networks: Competition or Complement?
  https://jlsc-pub.org/articles/abstract/10.7710/2162-3309.2183/
- The academic online: Constructing persona through the World Wide Web.
THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

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