

2016

ResearchGate, Copyright, and You

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Authors

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ResearchGate, Copyright, and You

University Libraries
Search Savvy Seminar
November 4, 2016 and November 15, 2016

“academic social network”

ResearchGate

academia.edu

“scholarly collaboration network”

ResearchGate logo source: <https://www.researchgate.net/press>.

Academia.edu logo image source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>.

You may have heard of the academic social networks ResearchGate and Academia.edu.

Also referred to as scholarly collaboration networks, these websites are like Facebook or LinkedIn for academic researchers.

Academia.edu

- Launched in 2008 (Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academia.edu>)
- As of 10/26/2016, has over 43 million users / almost 16 million papers / over 36 million unique visitors a month (Source: <https://www.academia.edu/about>)
- Despite having an Internet domain of .edu, Academia.edu is a dot.com.


ResearchGate

- Founded in 2008 (Source: <https://www.researchgate.net/about>)
- As of 10/26/2016, has over 10 million users / over 100 million publications / over 35 million monthly visits (Source: <https://solutions.researchgate.net/advertising/>)
- Smaller number of users than Academia.edu because joining requires an email address at a recognized institution or to be manually confirmed as a published researcher. (Source: <https://explore.researchgate.net/display/support/Signing+up+for+ResearchGat>)


- e).
- ResearchGate has been criticized for generating automated profiles for non-users and harvesting and posting full-text articles without their permission. (Sources: Van Noorden, Richard. "Scientists and the Social Network." *Nature* 512 (14 August 2014): 126-129; "Should I send a 'cease-and-desist' letter to ResearchGate?," <http://academia.stackexchange.com/questions/24127/should-i-send-a-cease-and-desist-letter-to-researchgate>).


A survey by *Nature* in May 2014 found that ResearchGate was much better known to researchers (88%) than Academia.edu (29%). (Source: Van Noorden, Richard. "Scientists and the Social Network." *Nature* 512 (14 August 2014): 126-129).

Another survey conducted from 2015-2016 found that ResearchGate was more than twice as popular as Academia.edu (61% vs. 28%) and that ResearchGate is used particularly by researchers in the sciences. (Source: Matthews, David. "Do academic social networks share academics' interests?" *Times Higher Education* (7 April 2016), <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/do-academic-social-networks-share-academics-interests>)



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
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Image source: <https://www.researchgate.net/press>.

Users create profiles and are encouraged to list their publications and other scholarly activities, to upload copies of articles they've authored, and to collaborate with other scholars with common interests.

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Francis Theodor Hane

Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute

Where can I get an epidemiological dataset for Alzheimer's disease patients?

I am developing a tool to predict the age of onset of Alzheimer's disease using Bayesian statistics to estimate genotype. I have come up with a proportional hazards model using simulated data based on existing literature. I am using covariates APOE4 status, sex, history of TBI, history of DM and education level.

Potentially I need two datasets: The first would be the APOE4 genotype for the subject and familial history ie current age (or death) and age of onset for the subject, parents and grandparents.

The second dataset I would need is age of onset and genotype, sex, Hx of TBI, Hx of DM, and education level.

I would prefer an anonymous dataset(s). I would be happy to collaborate with someone on this project.

TOPICS

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Clinical Statistics

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Bayesian Statistics

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Danielle Bengsch

ResearchGate

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Dose anyone know the effect of insulin on histology of mitochondria?

New Be the first to answer

Image source: <https://www.researchgate.net/press>.

Academic social networks can help you make connections, find jobs, learn what other researchers in your field are working on, and ask and answer questions.

But before you create a profile on one of these sites, there are certain things you should know.



"Piggy bank with coins" from Piggy bank from Skitterphoto.com is licensed under CC0.

First, these are commercial ventures, and while there is currently no charge to use them, their business model is to find a way to profit from the data that users provide.

You may be fine with that, but be aware that these sites could disappear if they don't meet investors' expectations, and that you have no control over what they do with your information.

ResearchGate has raised over \$35 million in venture capital funding. Their business strategy is focused on highly targeted advertising, for example to scientific equipment manufacturers, and their founder claims "they are already the largest job board for the scientific community."

Sources:

- Wikipedia, "ResearchGate," <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ResearchGate>
- Matthews, David. "Do academic social networks share academics' interests?" *Times Higher Education* (7 April 2016), <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/do-academic-social-networks-share-academics-interests>
- TechCrunch, 6/4/2013, <https://techcrunch.com/2013/06/04/bill-gates-benchmark-and-more-pour-35m-into-researchgate-the-professional-network-for-scientists/>
- <https://solutions.researchgate.net/advertising/>
- <https://solutions.researchgate.net/recruiting>

Academia.edu has raised \$17.7 million from a range of investors.

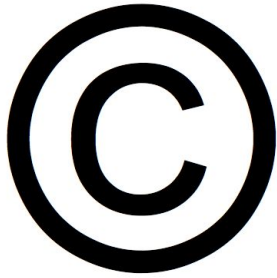
With regard to their business model, Richard Price, Academia.edu CEO, has said, “The goal is to provide trending research data to R&D institutions that can improve the quality of their decisions by 10-20%.”

In 2016, they launched Academia Premium, which provides authors with enhanced analytics for \$9.99 a month or \$99 a year.

They also make “some revenue” from advertising and job ads.

Sources:

- <https://www.academia.edu/about>, accessed 10/26/2016
- Personal communication from Academia.edu, 10/19/2016
- Shema, Hadas. “Interview with Richard Price, Academia.edu CEO,” Scientific American blog, 10/31/2012, <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/information-culture/interview-with-richard-price-academia-edu-ceo/>
- Matthews, David. “Do academic social networks share academics’ interests?” *Times Higher Education* (7 April 2016), <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/do-academic-social-networks-share-academics-interests>



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"Copyright symbols" from Flickr.com user Mike Seyfang is licensed under CC-BY.

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Second, since these are commercial sites, you should be very careful about uploading the full text of your publications.

By doing so, you could violate the copyrights held by your publishers.

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Academia is the easiest way to share papers with millions of people across the world for free. A study recently published in *PLOS ONE* found that papers uploaded to Academia receive a 69% boost in citations over 5 years.

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(Note: the PLOS ONE study referred to on the screen was written by Academia.edu employees. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0148257>)

ResearchGate and Academia.edu strongly encourage you to upload and share your papers.

Academia.edu

Richard Price, Academia.edu CEO: “The goal of the company is to rebuild science publishing from the ground up.” (Source: Van Noorden, Richard. “Scientists and the Social Network.” *Nature* 512 (14 August 2014): 126-129).

Academia.edu’s PR materials claim, “Academia.edu is committed to enabling the transition to a world where there is open access to academic literature.” (Source: “Elsevier is taking down papers from Academia.edu,” December 6, 2013, <https://sypow.com/2013/12/06/elsevier-is-taking-down-papers-from-academia-edu/>)

ResearchGate

Ijad Madisch, ResearchGate CEO, says ResearchGate aims to help “free knowledge from the Ivory Tower, to digitize it and make it accessible for everyone in order to accelerate scientific progress.” (Source: TechCrunch, 6/4/2013, <https://techcrunch.com/2013/06/04/bill-gates-benchmark-and-more-pour-35m-into-researchgate-the-professional-network-for-scientists/>)

ResearchGate “About” page states, “Our mission is to connect researchers and make it easy for them to share and access scientific output, knowledge, and expertise... Here’s how it works: Share your publications, access millions more, and publish your data.” (Source: <https://www.researchgate.net/about>, accessed 8/11/2016).

So, these statements make it sound like you can just upload all your articles, no questions asked, it’s okay!

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But when you read their terms of use carefully, you'll see that they actually prohibit any violations of copyright.

When you upload a file you confirm that “you have reviewed this file and that it contains no material protected by intellectual property laws or personal rights unless you own or control such rights or have received all necessary consents.”

Legally binding Terms and Conditions: “Users may only request storage of such information as they may legally store and publish. User must not request to store any information that infringes any third party’s copyright, trademarks, other intellectual property rights or any other rights.” (Source: Terms and Conditions, <https://www.researchgate.net/application.TermsAndConditions.html>, accessed 8/11/2016)

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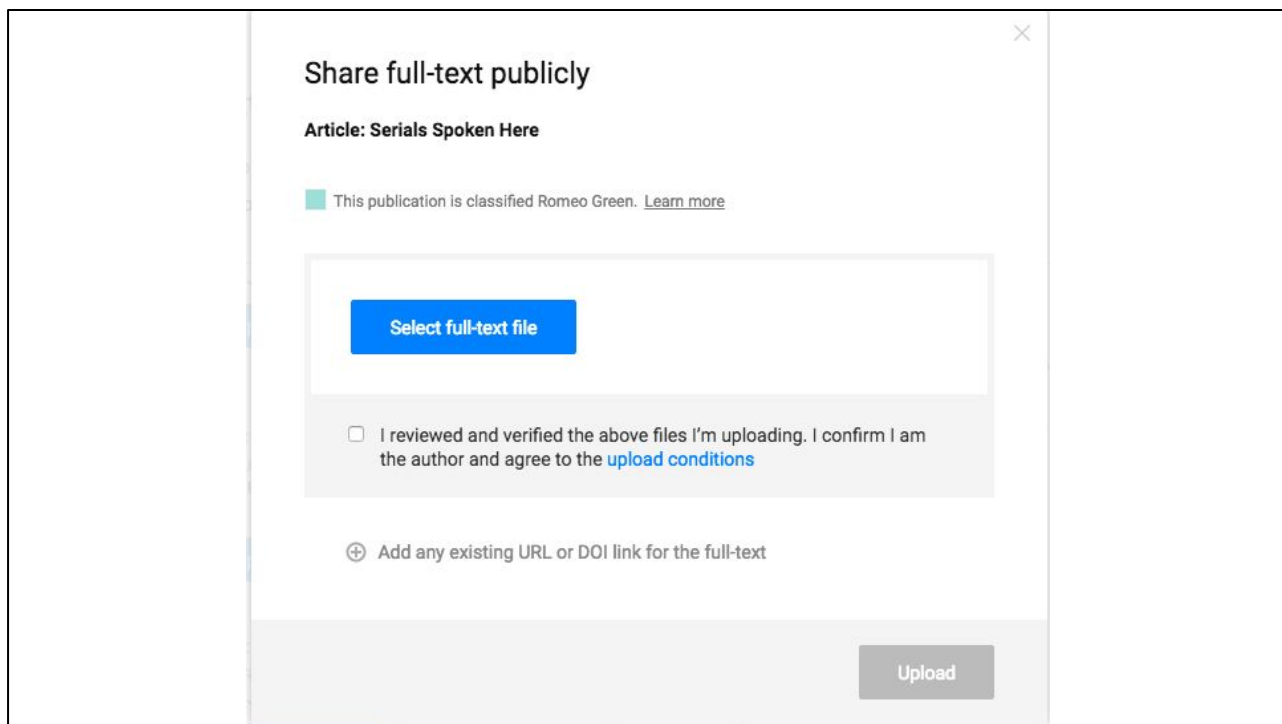
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party's patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret, moral rights or other intellectual property rights, or rights of publicity or privacy..."

"Copyright Policy. Academia.edu respects copyright law and expects its users to do the same. It is Academia.edu's policy to terminate, in appropriate circumstances, Members or other account holders who repeatedly infringe or are believed to be repeatedly infringing the rights of copyright holders." (Source: Academia.edu *Terms of Use*, <https://www.academia.edu/terms>, accessed 8/11/2016.)

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So, they're making it clear in the fine print that you DO have to adhere to copyright law.



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Yet both sites also include technically correct but misleading information, primarily by suggesting that the [Sherpa/Romeo website](#) guide to publisher self-archiving policies applies in the case of ResearchGate and Academia.edu.

[See examples in yellow below.]

As we will see, posting on commercial sites like ResearchGate and Academia.edu is prohibited by many publishers, even so-called “green” publishers in Sherpa/Romeo.

ResearchGate

ResearchGate's Help Center suggests says, “You can self-archive your work on ResearchGate by uploading full-text versions of your publications.” It also suggests that authors check Sherpa/Romeo, and that “green means you should be safe to add a full-text.”

But they also warn, “You should always check your publisher conditions to make sure you are not breaching copyright.” (Sources: <https://explore.researchgate.net/>, <https://explore.researchgate.net/display/support/Full-texts+and+self-archiving>, accessed 8/11/2016)

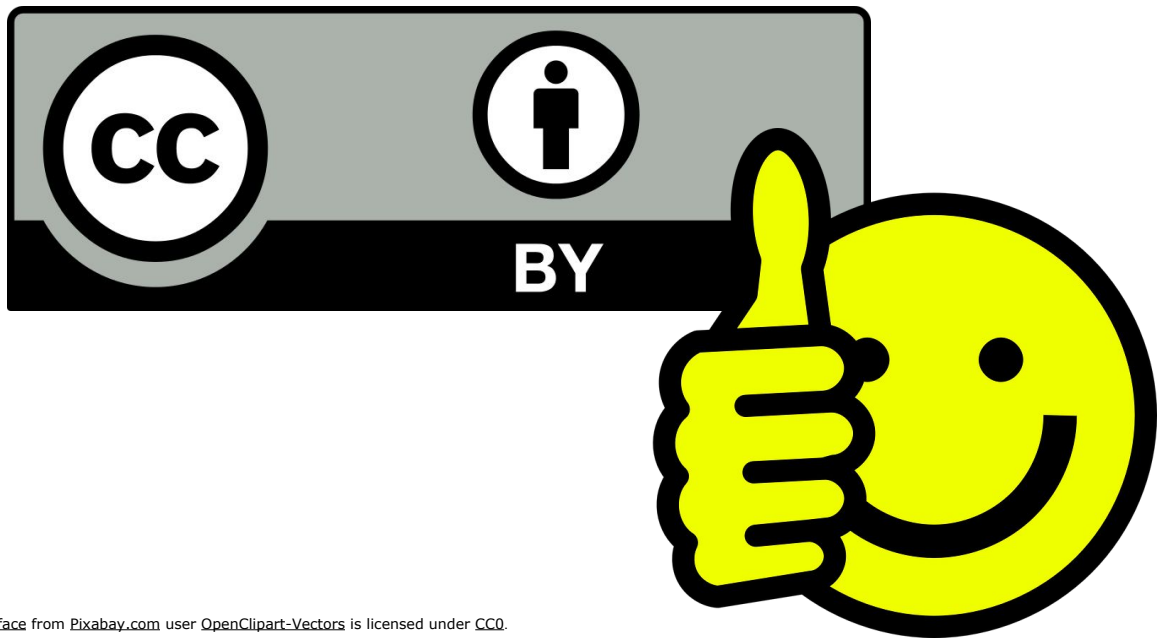
Academia.edu

Academia.edu's Copyright FAQ includes misleading information:

"Do I own my work or article? Do I have the right to post my work or article on Academia.edu?

The answers to these questions will depend upon your particular situation. The general rule is that the person who creates a work is the author and owner of the work. However, there are exceptions to that rule for works made for hire and for copyrights that have been transferred, assigned, willed or given to another party. For example, copyright ownership of a paper written by a faculty member may be determined in several ways, including by a written agreement between the university and the faculty member or by the university's institutional policies on the ownership of copyrights for works created at the university and the allocation of royalties between the university and the author. In addition, publishers frequently require authors to transfer their copyrights to the publishers as a condition of publication. The transfer of ownership of a copyright to a publisher will prevent the author from future use of the work unless the author has agreed with the publisher that he or she reserves his or her right to use the work for certain purposes, such as teaching, research or other non-profit educational activities, or for certain types of use, such as rights to post an electronic version of the work on the faculty member's website or on websites like Academia.edu. Many journals will also allow an author to retain rights to all pre-publication drafts of his or her published work, which permits the author to post a pre-publication version of the work on Academia.edu. According to Sherpa, which tracks journal publishers' approach to copyright, 90% of journals allow uploading of either the pre-print or the post-print of your paper." Source: Academia.edu *Copyright Policy*, <https://www.academia.edu/copyright>, accessed 10/26/2016.

And CEO Richard Price admits that academics can make their preprint manuscripts freely available even if the final article is under copyright. (Source: Matthews, David. "Do academic social networks share academics' interests? *Times Higher Education* (7 April 2016), <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/do-academic-social-networks-share-academics-interests>)



Smiley face from Pixabay.com user OpenClipart-Vectors is licensed under CC0.

So, when CAN you upload your full-texts to ResearchGate or Academia.edu?

Is it ever safe to do so?

If you have published your research under a license that allows for commercial re-use (such as Creative Commons CC-BY), you are free to upload your articles.

But in most cases, you'll need to follow the policy of your publishers.

Publisher Policies for Posting Articles to Academic Networking Sites

Publisher	Original manuscript (pre-peer review)	Accepted manuscript (post-peer review)	Version of Record (publisher PDF)
Cambridge	✓	✗	✗
Elsevier	✓	✗	✗
Nature	(✗)	(✗) (after 6 mos.)	✗
Oxford	(✗)	(✓) (after 12-24 mos.)	✗
Sage	✓	(✗) (after 12 mos.)	✗
Science	?	(✗)	✗
Springer	(✗)	✓ (after 12 mos.)	✗
Taylor & Francis	✓	✓ (after 12-18 mos.)	✗
Wiley	✗	✗	✗

Always consult your individual author agreement, but in general none of the major publishers allows the final, publisher PDF to be posted on ResearchGate or Academia.edu.

A few publishers will allow you to post your final, peer-reviewed manuscript, but only after an embargo period; others prohibit the posting of the manuscript version entirely.

Some publishers will only allow you to post your original article, as submitted to the journal.

Some publisher policies are clear cut; others more ambiguous or confusing, but it is always best to err on side of safety. For example:

Elsevier: “Elsevier journal authors can upload the preprint, but not the accepted or published version, of their manuscript to ResearchGate, Mendeley, Academia.edu and other scholarly collaboration networks.” Source: Personal communication from permissionshelpdesk@elsevier.com, 8/25/2016. See also <https://www.elsevier.com/about/company-information/policies/copyright/permissions> and <https://www.elsevier.com/about/company-information/policies/sharing>. Note that after the embargo period of 12 months, Elsevier only allows sharing of accepted manuscript via non-commercial platforms such as the institutional repository or via commercial sites with which Elsevier has an agreement. And these agreements allow “sharing of copyrighted content (accepted manuscripts and published journal articles) between users as part of an invitation-only workgroup,” i.e. privately. See

<https://www.elsevier.com/about/company-information/policies/hosting/hosting> and https://www.elsevier.com/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/78502/Policy_handout.pdf.

Nature: "... Authors are encouraged to archive [the Final Author Version] of the manuscript in their institution's repositories and, if they wish, on their personal websites, six months after the original publication... Archived content may not be used for purposes that are intended for or directed towards commercial advantage or monetary compensation by means of sale, resale, license, loan, transfer or any other form of commercial exploitation..." Source: *Publishing licenses and compliance with open access mandates*, <http://www.nature.com/authors/policies/license.html>. Accessed 8/11/2016.

- Probably not allowed on academic social network, because it is not mentioned above, and because the "Terms for reuse of archived manuscripts" states re-use must not be for Commercial Purposes.

Wiley: "Self-archiving of the accepted version is subject to an embargo period of 12-24 months... The accepted version may be placed on: the author's personal website; the author's company/institutional repository or archive; not for profit subject-based repositories such as PubMed Central... The version posted may not be updated or replaced with the final published version..." Source: Wiley's Self-Archiving Policy, <http://olabout.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-828039.html>. Accessed 10/26/2016.

Sage: "Once the article has been accepted for publication, you may post the accepted version of the article on your own personal website, your department's website or the repository of your institution without any restrictions. You may not post the accepted version of the article in any other repository other than those listed above (i.e. you may not deposit in the repository of another institution or a subject-matter repository) until 12 months after publication of the article in a journal... You may not post the published article on a website or in a repository without permission from SAGE." Source: *Copyright and Permissions*, <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/copyright-and-permissions>. Accessed 8/11/2016.

- This seems to suggest that perhaps the accepted version can be posted to an academic social network after 12 months. However, Sage's *Journals Permissions* page notes that "supply[ing] my article to a commercial organization for republication, distribution or a web posting" requires permissions. Source: <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/journals-permissions>. Accessed 8/11/2016.

Springer: "Authors may deposit their accepted manuscript version, including changes made to the submitted paper as a result of peer review. Authors are not allowed to use the final published version... for self-archiving... All services offering organized central archiving are considered repositories, and are subject to a twelve months embargo period, including scientific networks such as ResearchGate and Mendeley."

Source: *FAQ about authors' rights*,

[https://www.springer.com/gp/open-access/authors-rights/faq-about-authors-rights/211](https://www.springer.com/gp/open-access/authors-rights/faq-about-authors-rights/2114)

[4](https://www.springer.com/gp/open-access/authors-rights/faq-about-authors-rights/2114). Accessed 8/11/2016.



"Judge Gavel Handcuffs and Money" by PublicDomainPictures.net user George_Hodan is licensed under CC0.

So how big is the risk if you go ahead and post your articles anyway? You know other people who are doing it.

Realistically, the risk is probably small. A publisher objecting to finding their content on an academic social network would probably issue a take-down notice to the site itself, as Elsevier did to Academia.edu in 2013.

Your paper would be removed, and that would be the end of it.

Sources:

- Howard, Jennifer. "Posting Your Latest Article? You Might Have to Take It Down," Chronicle of Higher Education, Wired Campus blog, December 6, 2013, <http://www.chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/posting-your-latest-article-you-might-have-to-take-it-down/48865>
- "Elsevier is taking down papers from Academia.edu," December 6, 2013, <https://svpow.com/2013/12/06/elsevier-is-taking-down-papers-from-academia-edu/>

In·dem·ni·fy

To compensate for damage or loss sustained, expense incurred, etc.

Source: [Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com)

However, if you read the Terms of Use of ResearchGate and Academia.edu, you will find that by using the site, in addition to agreeing **not** to post any information that infringes any third party's intellectual property rights, you **indemnify** the site against any third party legal claims.

This means that if the site were sued for copyright infringement for something you posted, you would be personally responsible for their legal costs.

ResearchGate

“Users indemnify the Provider from any claims raised by third parties in reference to any information that is stored on request of the respective user. The indemnification covers all adequate expenditures, including court and lawyer fees.”

Academia.edu

“You agree to indemnify, and hold Academia.edu, its officers, directors, employees and agents, harmless from and against any claims, liabilities, damages, losses, and expenses, including, without limitation, reasonable legal and accounting fees, arising out of or in any way connected with your access to or use of the Site, Services or Collective Content, or your violation of these terms.”

Sources:

ResearchGate, Terms and Conditions,

<https://www.researchgate.net/application.TermsAndConditions.html>, accessed 8/11/2016.

Academia.edu, Terms of Use, <https://www.academia.edu/terms>, accessed 11/3/2016.

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So, in conclusion, if you're comfortable with their business model, by all means create a profile on ResearchGate and Academia.edu to connect with other researchers in your field.

But for sharing the full-text of your articles, your best (and safest) bet is to take advantage of the URI Open Access Policy and deposit your work in DigitalCommons@URI.

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Andrée Rathemacher
 Professor, University Libraries
 University of Rhode Island
 November 2016



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English Faculty Publications

English Publications

Each academic department has a “Faculty Publications” section in the repository. Typically, faculty members deposit scholarly articles that have already been published in academic journals. Depositing other types of scholarship--such as book chapters, creative works, and datasets--is a bit more complicated, but sometimes can be done on an ad hoc basis.

URI Open Access Policy

In 2013, the URI Faculty granted the University a license:

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I am currently Digital Initiatives Librarian at the University of Rhode Island where I manage digital projects and scholarly communications initiatives, including the URI Open Access Policy. Prior to URI, I served as Special Projects Librarian at the University of Michigan, where I was a project manager for the Michigan Digitization Project and the HathTrust Digital Library. I hold an MSI from the University of Michigan and a BA in English from Wellesley College.

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1st [Amanda Izenstark](#)
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2nd [Katie L. Leahy](#)

Abstract

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Purpose

– The purpose of this paper is to share possible opportunities for librarians, faculty and students with access to Google Classroom, and it includes a discussion of its application and functionality in information literacy sessions.

Design/methodology/approach

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Details

Conference Proceedings

Create Your Own Cephalonian Method Adventure: An Interactive Session

Izenstark A, MacDonald M

LOEX Conference Proceedings

City: Columbus, OH

Editors:
Brad Sietz D,
Randal Baier, Susann deVries, Sarah Fabian, Sara Memmot R

Publisher: Eastern Michigan University
2012

The Cephalonian Method has garnered much interest for its possibilities for engaging students in what could be an otherwise one-sided orientation program. This workshop will help attendees determine how and when to incorporate the Cephalonian Method into their sessions, how to discuss the technique with colleagues, and most

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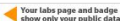
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Description: Professor Amanda Izenstark is Reference and Instructional Design Librarian at the University Libraries, University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island. She received her MLIS from URI in 2001, and has served as ACRL New England Member-at-Large and co-chair of ACRL Instruction Section's Instructional Technologies Committee. Amanda is an adjunct faculty at the URI-GSLIS teaching Reference and Information Services and is also co-recipient in 2006 of the ACRL Instruction Section Innovation in Instruction Award. She has been teaching LIB 120: Introduction to Information Literacy since 2001. She also teaches LSC 504: Reference and Information Services as an Adjunct Professor for URI's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies.

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Source: Communications In Information Literacy Volume: 10 Issue: 1 Pages: 116-117 Published: 2016

Times Cited: 0

added

19-Oct-16

2. Title: Look good when you're googled: Creating and optimizing your digital identity

Author(s): Izenstark, A.

Source: Library Hi Tech News Volume: 31 Issue: 9 Pages: 14-16 Published: 2014

DOI: 10.1108/LHTN-07-2014-0061 / Author-provided URL: [View](#)

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Library Hi Tech News

2015

Purpose

This paper shares possible opportunities for librarians, faculty, and students with access to Google Classroom, and includes a discussion of its application and functionality in information literacy sessions.

Design/methodology/approach

This article describes the functionality of Google Classroom with a review of its capabilities for providing information literacy...

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