



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA

SBA SISTEMA BIBLIOTECARIO
DI ATENEIO

"I Social Network di Ricerca: opportunità e alternative"

Conversazioni su l'Open Science
27 giugno 2025 14.30-15.30

con Anna Cecchinato, Manuela Fasan e Silvia
Tapparo

e con la Professoressa Juliana
Raffaghelli



Le Conversazioni su l'Open Science

Serie di incontri mensili online

Di giovedì, alle ore 14.30

Partecipazione gratuita, su prenotazione

Momenti informativi su temi e novità dal mondo della Scienza Aperta e occasioni per conoscere e approfondire il funzionamento dei servizi di Ateneo, allo scopo di aumentare l'efficienza della ricerca e rendere la conoscenza scientifica rintracciabile, accessibile, interoperabile e riutilizzabile.

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Gli Academic Social Networks

“The purpose of this paper is to compare four popular academic social networking sites (ASNSs), namely, ResearchGate, Academia.edu, Mendeley and Zotero.”

Bhardwaj, R.K. (2017), "Academic social networking sites: Comparative analysis of ResearchGate, Academia.edu, Mendeley and Zotero", Information and Learning Sciences, Vol. 118 No. 5/6, pp. 298-316. <https://doi.org/10.1108/ILS-03-2017-0012>

“Purpose: The study aims to investigate the three leading academic social network platforms-Academia.edu, ResearchGate, and Mendeley-and the elements that contribute to their acceptance in academics.”

Anand, Vinay and Suman, Anubhaw Kumar and Kumari, Deepika, Features and Co-Relationships of Academic Social Networks among Academic Community: An Overview (December 31, 2024). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5151796> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5151796>

Gli Academic Social Networks

“The term “academic social network sites” (ASNS) encompasses a variety of online platforms which have sought to bring the benefits of online networking to a specifically academic audience. Working within this definition and applying it to online services aimed at academics, ASNS can be divided into two categories: **those which have been developed primarily to facilitate profile creation and connection (analogous to Facebook; examples include Academia.edu and ResearchGate)**, and those with a primary focus on posting and sharing academic-related content and have subsequently added social networking capabilities (such as Mendeley).”

Jordan, K. (2019). From Social Networks to Publishing Platforms: A Review of the History and Scholarship of Academic Social Network Sites. *Frontiers in Digital Humanities*, Volume 6-2019. <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/digital-humanities/articles/10.3389/fdigh.2019.00005>

Abitudini d'uso degli ASN

“**ResearchGate** is a social network service founded in 2008 and has attracted more than **12 million** members distributed worldwide in 193 countries. **The majority of the members, sixty per cent, belong to a wide range of hard scientific disciplines such as medicine, biology, engineering, chemistry, computer science and physics.** The stated mission of ResearchGate is «to connect the world of science and make research open to all”

Manca, S. (2017). An analysis of ResearchGate and Academia.edu as socio-technical systems for scholars' networked learning: a multilevel framework proposal. Italian Journal of Educational Technology, 25(3), 20-34. doi: [10.17471/2499-4324/985](https://doi.org/10.17471/2499-4324/985)

“**Academia.edu** is a social networking service founded in 2008 that counts almost **50 million** accounts and attracts over 36 million unique visitors a month. In contrast with ResearchGate, the platform **is more popular in Arts and Humanities and to a lesser extent in Social Sciences and Economics** (Kramer & Bosman, 2016)”

Manca, S. (2017). An analysis of ResearchGate and Academia.edu as socio-technical systems for scholars' networked learning: a multilevel framework proposal. Italian Journal of Educational Technology, 25(3), 20-34. doi: [10.17471/2499-4324/985](https://doi.org/10.17471/2499-4324/985)

Abitudini d'uso degli ASN

“The average monthly active recipients of the service in the European Union is approximately 13,461,640. This number is calculated as an average over the six-month period from August 2024 to January 2025 inclusive. It is estimated based upon available metrics, and may not fully reflect duplicative access to the platform by some recipients.”

<https://help.researchgate.net/hc/en-us/articles/14295296987921-Legal-Information>

ultima consultazione: 17/06/2025

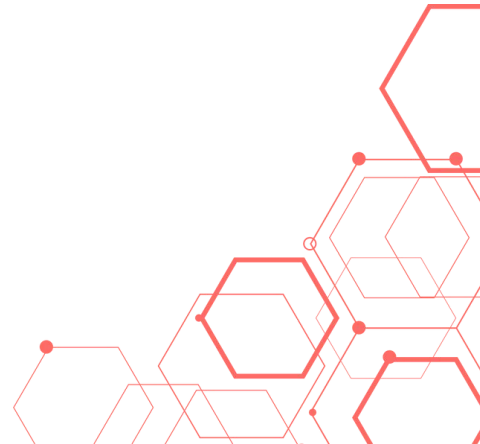
“Usage can be limited to reading and acquiring information about what other users post, or can regard active participation, such as posting new content or activating new connections. Both types of usage can generate professional benefits for academics; stumbling upon relevant information not only enriches their personal knowledge base, it can also help them build a transactive memory or a cognitive representation of who is who in their networks”

Manca, S. (2017). An analysis of ResearchGate and Academia.edu as socio-technical systems for scholars' networked learning: a multilevel framework proposal. Italian Journal of Educational Technology, 25(3), 20-34. doi: [10.17471/2499-4324/985](https://doi.org/10.17471/2499-4324/985)



Domanda 1

Personalmente lei usa o ha usato gli Academic Social Network? Come si è avvicinata a queste piattaforme?
Quali trova più utili?



Differenze geografiche

“China, the United States, and Canada-centered writers have dominated the authorship, but **most studies did not examine the situation in specific countries empirically**. This could suggest that the scenario is being examined at a global level. However, it may also mean that, in terms of culture and social context, **the phenomenon is not largely studied**”

Hailu, Milkyas, and Jianhua Wu. “The Use of Academic Social Networking Sites in Scholarly Communication: Scoping Review.” *Data and Information Management*, vol. 5, no. 2, 2021, pp. 277–98, doi:[10.2478/dim-2020-0050](https://doi.org/10.2478/dim-2020-0050).

“A few studies have shown that sharing research work (e.g. **Indian context**) (Asmi & Margam, 2018) is the primary reason to join and use ASNs, and others claim that it is unimportant for academic works. **This finding corroborates with previous studies, suggesting that there is a geographic difference in researchers’ scholarly communication behaviors**. For example, researchers from less developed countries according to the Human Development Index (HDI), such as India, compared with those in developed countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom (very high HDI), employed external factors more in determining what to read, factors such as authors’ names, affiliation, country, and journal name. Even when deciding where to publish, the publisher of the journal was more important for developing countries than it was for researchers from the United States and the United Kingdom (Jamali et al., 2014). **This perhaps implies that the behavior of academics in ASNs may also differ in the specific country context**”

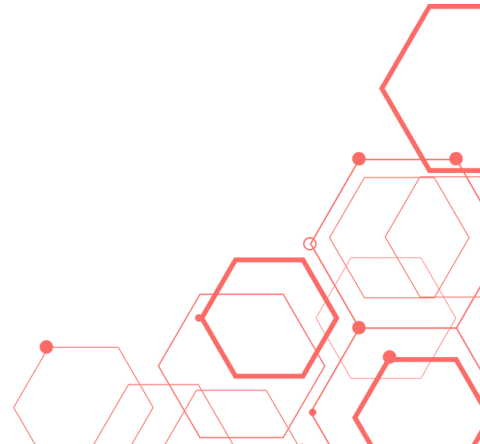
Hailu, Milkyas, and Jianhua Wu. “The Use of Academic Social Networking Sites in Scholarly Communication: Scoping Review.” *Data and Information Management*, vol. 5, no. 2, 2021, pp. 277–98, doi:[10.2478/dim-2020-0050](https://doi.org/10.2478/dim-2020-0050).



Domanda 2

I colleghi con cui collabora li utilizzano?

Nota delle differenze tra colleghi italiani e stranieri nelle abitudini d'uso?



Motivazioni e usi degli ASN

“The use of ASNs has brought more pronounced changes in the scholarly communication sector. ASNs offer network-building and communication opportunities. Scholars can update themselves with respect to other scholarly publications, grants, co-authors, and also contact potential collaborators. In addition, it provides a forum for scholars to disseminate their published and unpublished works, exchange publications, discuss research-related issues, increase their scholarly visibility, and carry out objective self-assessment (ranking) within a specific discipline (D'Alessandro et al., 2020; Jordan, 2019b). In addition, ASNs provide opportunities for creating professional identity and self-marketing.”

Hailu, M., & Wu, J. (2021). The Use of Academic Social Networking Sites in Scholarly Communication: Scoping Review. *Data and Information Management*, 5(2), 277–298. <https://doi.org/10.2478/dim-2020-0050>

Ultima consultazione 23/06/2025

Domanda 3

Gli ASN rappresentano semplicemente un ulteriore spazio in cui depositare il proprio lavoro, offrendo così un'opportunità aggiuntiva per la disseminazione, oppure la componente 'social' e la possibilità di condivisione/interazione giocano un ruolo predominante?

Statistiche d'uso degli ASN

“The service also provides an **analytics dashboard**, which gives the user an overview of how others have interacted with their own publications (**number of visitors, views and downloads, as well as the related countries and cities of provenance**, etc.). However, detailed analysis is accessible only with a premium account.”

Manca, S. (2017). An analysis of ResearchGate and Academia.edu as socio-technical systems for scholars' networked learning: a multilevel framework proposal. Italian Journal of Educational Technology, 25(3), 20-34. doi: [10.17471/2499-4324/985](https://doi.org/10.17471/2499-4324/985)

“Powerful as they may sound, ASNS technological architectures are also influencing the factors academia consider relevant in the evaluation of scientific productivity and academic rankings. For instance, on **insisting on the relevance of dashboard analytics, Academia.edu is criticised for reinforcing a culture of incessant self-monitoring and for amplifying and accelerating the logic of self-branding among scholars that is increasingly encouraged by university quantifiable policies** (Duffy & Pooley, 2017)”

Manca, S. (2017). An analysis of ResearchGate and Academia.edu as socio-technical systems for scholars' networked learning: a multilevel framework proposal. Italian Journal of Educational Technology, 25(3), 20-34. doi: [10.17471/2499-4324/985](https://doi.org/10.17471/2499-4324/985)

Domanda 4

Ci sono specifiche funzionalità dei social network accademici (ad esempio il facile accesso alle statistiche d'uso) che gli studiosi potrebbero trovare più pratiche rispetto ai repository istituzionali?



Privacy Policy

3 How We Use Your Information

We use your information for a variety of business purposes, including to provide our Services, for administrative purposes, and to market our products and Services, as described below.

<https://www.academia.edu/privacy#how-we-use-your-information>

ultima consultazione 23/06/2025

Privacy Policy

Last updated: February 20, 2024

To help make this policy easy to navigate, the text is broken down into sections covering different topics. You can find an overview of all the sections in the [contents](#). When you visit each section, you'll find a summary of what it contains and a list of subsections.

Introduction

- This Privacy Policy provides you with information about the collection and use practices of ResearchGate for personal data we process in the course of providing the Service.
- We may make amendments to this Privacy Policy regularly. We suggest that you check back from time to time to make sure you're aware of our current way of handling your personal data.

https://help.researchgate.net/hc/article_attachments/22734604572433

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Privacy Policy

“This study was concerned with the privacy and security issues emerging from the use of academic social networking sites. To understand the actual scenario five mostly used ASNs were selected. An online survey was conducted to know the users’ awareness regarding online privacy and security of their shared intellectual property. The online survey showed that the users of the ASNs were not aware of their online privacy and security of their shared intellectual inputs.”

Dey, K., & Mondal, P. (2019). Privacy Awareness among the Academic Social Network Users. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, , 0-19.

<https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/privacy-awareness-among-academic-social-network/docview/2299764177/se-2>

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Domanda 5

Le caratteristiche prettamente commerciali degli ASN (pubblicità, raccolta dati utenti, invio email spam..) influenzano negativamente la sua esperienza d'uso? Secondo lei, quali sono le principali differenze nella gestione della privacy tra i social network accademici e i repository istituzionali?



Copyright e Researchgate

“Copyright and ResearchGate

ResearchGate was developed by scientists to make collaboration, sharing, and communication between researchers easier. **We respect the intellectual property rights of others and ask that you do the same.**

ResearchGate lets you:

- Upload public copies of your full-texts to publication pages
- Store private copies of your full-texts on publication pages that are accessible to you and your co-authors
- Share private copies of your full-texts with others
- Add files to some of your posts, such as Q&A posts.

You are responsible for any content you upload or share, so it’s important that you check in advance that you have all the necessary rights to do so.”

<https://help.researchgate.net/hc/en-us/articles/14846037644817-Copyright-and-ResearchGate>

ultima consultazione: 20/06/2025



Copyright e Researchgate

“Copyright checks on ResearchGate

4 months ago Updated

How copyright checks work

Our copyright check system is a tool for copyright owners to manage the sharing of their copyrighted material on ResearchGate. Publishers that use our copyright check system provide ResearchGate with information about their copyright-protected works. This information includes specific identifiers that our automated system uses to identify copyrighted content. Publishers also determine what sharing options are available to the authors.

As authors create publication pages and upload files for their work, **their content is automatically checked** against our database of copyright information.

...

My upload was successful. Does that mean I'm allowed to share my content on ResearchGate?

Our copyright check system is limited to the copyright information that we've received from participating publishers. If our copyright check system doesn't find a match for content you're adding, **it may still be copyright-protected.**”

<https://help.researchgate.net/hc/en-us/articles/14295499851665-Copyright-checks-on-ResearchGate>

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Creative Commons NonCommercial e ASNs

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Can OA content published under a CC BY-NC-ND licence be posted on scholarly sharing platforms?

Modified on: Tue, 16 Jul, 2024 at 10:37 AM

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ultima consultazione: 20/06/2025

<https://support.springernature.com/en/support/solutions/articles/6000273347-can-oa-content-published-under-a-cc-by-nc-nd-licence-be-posted-on-scholarly-sharing-platforms->

Domanda 6

La [legge sul diritto d'autore](#) (ma anche le meno aperte fra le licenze per l'OA) come si conciliano con la condivisione di contenuti sugli ASNs?

Ha l'impressione, nel suo ambito di esperienza, che vi sia consapevolezza su queste tematiche?

Conservazione a lungo termine

“When you upload content of any kind, ResearchGate stores the content across various secure services and also makes copies onto separate back up servers to assure continuity and preservation in the event of service disruption. In order to ensure the integrity of specific data files when files are read, they are checked for CRC32C and MD5 checksums. In case the checksum fails, the system restores the file from a replica in the system.”

<https://help.researchgate.net/hc/en-us/articles/14293085867921-Data>

ultima consultazione: 17/06/2025

“La conservazione digitale implica la combinazione di policy, strategie e azioni per assicurare l'autenticità del contenuto e la conservazione a lungo termine, indipendentemente dai cambiamenti tecnologici futuri. [...] Le principali azioni perseguite dal SBA per la conservazione a lungo termine delle collezioni digitali sono le seguenti:

- **Sviluppo e mantenimento degli archivi digitali** per la conservazione a lungo termine degli oggetti digitali
- **Gestione dei diversi formati di file e di metadati**
- Implementazione di **processi robusti e meccanismi automatizzati** per assicurare la buona gestione e conservazione del contenuto
- Accesso continuo e affidabile al contenuto degli oggetti digitali per la comunità di riferimento”

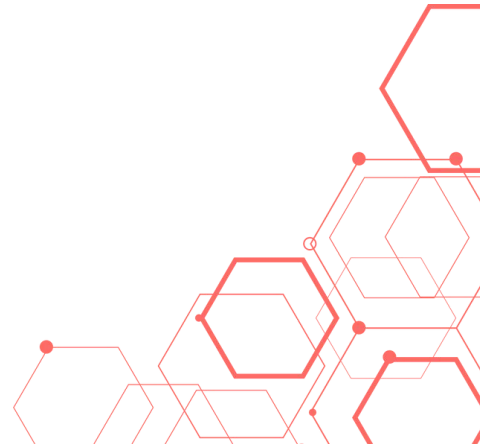
biblio.unipd.it/biblioteca-digitale/archivi-istituzionali/mantenimento-infrastruttura-tecnologica#autotoc-item-autotoc-1



Domanda 7

Ha mai riflettuto su come vengano conservati nel tempo gli output di ricerca condivisi su piattaforme come ResearchGate o Academia.edu?

La comunità accademica ha consapevolezza di come funziona effettivamente la conservazione in questi casi, e come si differenzia da quella offerta dai repository istituzionali?





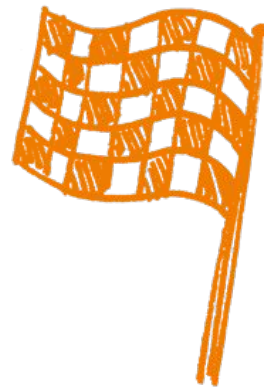
Servizio Aiuto



Il Servizio Aiuto fornito dal Sistema Bibliotecario di Ateneo dell'Università di Padova è un servizio di supporto online rivolto a tutta l'utenza, sia istituzionale che esterna.

Code specifiche sui temi dell'Open Science:

- Supporto alla pubblicazione accademica
- Consulenza tematiche diritto d'autore
- Supporto Open Science (Open Access, Open Data)



<https://biblio.unipd.it/aiuto>

Grazie per l'attenzione!

Università degli Studi di Padova
Ufficio Biblioteca Digitale - Centro di Ateneo per le Biblioteche

Sistema Bibliotecario di Ateneo



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