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## Scholarly Communication through Social Networks: A Study

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**Abstract.** This paper attempts to look at how the scholarly communications are taking place through the various social media and community networks across the disciplines. Now the social and community networks had become an essential part of our lives and they have now grown beyond from a channel of communication with family and friends to a professional and scholarly communication channels. The most popular scholarly networks have now millions of academic and research articles. The technological features of these networks enable interoperability, openness and thus can be shared with other networks using various sharing applications. In this paper presents an insight of the scholarly communications through social networks.

**Keywords:** Social Networking, Community Networks, Scholarly Communication, ResearchGate, Facebook, Social Network Analysis

### 1 Introduction

There is a sea change in the landscape of academic and research interactions and innovative ways of scholarly communications is taking place. Blogs, Wikis, social networking sites etc. are emerging as new platforms for this purpose. Now the scholars (~30-34 lakhs) are using social networks viz., Academia.edu, ResearchGate, Mendely etc., for their research and communications and to establish linkages with each other. An overview of these scholarly networks is presented in Research Front by Deepthi Varughese and Biji C L (2013). Apart from these, Facebook and Twitter are also playing an important role in the digital scholarship. At this backdrop, a desktop study was carried out to discover the social network communities and their engagement with the digital networks.

### 2 Methodology

Available data from the ResearchGate community was gathered, Facebook was searched for discipline wise groups and monitoring of blogs and twitter was carried out using Melwater's IceRocket and Twazzup in the month of during June and July 2013.

### 3 Results and Discussion

The discipline wise data about membership and publications on ResearchGate shows that out of the 24 major disciplines, the highest membership and publications were in the Biology followed by Medicine, Chemistry and Engineering. The same were searched for mentions in blog posts, TPH and Facebook groups (Table 1). The results revealed that though the Biology was having highest membership and publications, the hashtag/keyword 'Biology' was mentioned very less in the blog posts and in tweets. However, on Facebook, all the four popular disciplines were having equal number of groups. The study of Gruzd et. al. (2012) revealed that social media is gaining importance and more researchers are now using it to keep updated in their research areas and they like to comment on blogs. However, very few wish to maintain their own blogs.

**Table 1.** Discipline mentions in Blog Posts and Tweets Per Hour (TPH) between 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM (IST) on 3.07.2013

Discipline	Blog Post Mention	TPH	Facebook Groups
Medicine	58,215	1100	90
Biology	15,794	365	99
Chemistry	23,124	392	101
Engineering	47,942	361	103

### 4 Conclusion

Academicians and researchers are embracing various social networks for communication and also for sharing their research outputs. Therefore, Indian publishers also must integrate social media tools into their publishing channels. The study reveals that most of the scholarly communication is now happening via social networks. A full detailed study with all the disciplines would provide good insights of scholarly communications in the social networks and its impact.

### 5 References

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