Academic Social Networking and Copyright: Legal and Ethical Implications for Counselor Educators

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What experience do you have with Academic Social Networking?
Academic Social Networking

- Sites such as Researchgate, Academia.edu, Google Scholar, and Mendeley offer individual profiles for Academic Social Networking.

- These sites provide counselor educators with tools to establish an online presence and enhance collaborative scholarly relationships.

- Allow users to describe their scholarly activity, may increase the visibility of the scholar’s work and provide evidence of the scholar’s national or international reputation, as is required for promotion and tenure at some universities.
Yes: 50
No: 40
56%

Yes: 56
No: 50
52%

Yes: 35
No: 73
32%
Methods

- Stratified random sample of CACREP-accredited programs
  - Comprehensive list of CACREP-accredited programs
  - Classified each institution by Carnegie classification
    - **R1**: Doctoral Universities – Highest research activity
    - **R2**: Doctoral Universities – Higher research activity
    - **R3**: Doctoral Universities – Moderate research activity
    - **M1**: Master's Colleges and Universities – Larger programs
    - **M2**: Master's Colleges and Universities – Medium programs
    - **M3**: Master's Colleges and Universities – Smaller programs
  - Removed those institutions not classified by research activity
Methods

- 15 programs in each strata (R1, R2, R3);
- Viewed each program website to gather faculty name and professorship (n= 304)
  - Assistant, Associate, Full
- Searched names on Researchgate.net.
- For those with profiles (n= 141), we mined available data on the site, including Researchgate score, number of articles (including full text), citations, and reads.
- H-index was obtained for all faculty members sampled, regardless of Researchgate participation, using Scopus.
What are the benefits of Academic Social Networking Sites?
In our sample, having a Researchgate profile was positively correlated with higher h-index scores among tenure track faculty in CACREP programs ($r = .31$, $p < .001$).

Having full text articles on Researchgate was positively correlated with higher h-index scores ($r = .43$, $p < .001$).
Ethical Implications

- Perhaps the most controversial function of ASNS is the ability to share full-text publications.
- Most publishers require authors to sign an agreement transferring copyright to the publisher, forcing authors to request permission to distribute those works.
- How will ASNS evolve to benefit both the authors and publishers of scholarly works?
- Could ASNS lead to a push for open access or will there be a tightening of copyright agreements?
- For counselor educators, the use of ASNS can be part of mentoring discussions with junior faculty and advising of doctoral students. For practicing counselors, ASNS could present opportunities to access up to date research more efficiently.
What is the future of the scholarly production?

And...

How might ASNS change the way scholars share their work?
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