Academic Networking for Architects? How to Improve the Visibility of Research Activities via Alternative Routes

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Academic Networking for Architects?
How to Improve the Visibility of Research Activities via Alternative Routes

Tina Hohmann
Technical University of Munich
University Library

Embedding Libraries -
Service and Development in Context
38th Annual IATUL Conference
in Bolzano, Italy
June 19, 2017
The Technical University of Munich (TUM)

- 40,000 students
- 10,000 staff members
- 550 professors
- 14 departments
The Department of Architecture

1,500 students
200 academic staff
29 professors

"Glückwünsche zur Masterthesis" by TUM department of Architecture.
Research at the Department of Architecture

Research Lab

Centre for Urban Ecology and Climate Adaption

http://www.ar.tum.de/en/research-development/research-networks/research-lab/
TUM: Research output in major databases

Number of professors with publications in WoS and Scopus

- No publication: 5
- More than 10 publications: 5
- Between 1 and 10 publications: 14 in WoS

- No publication: 5
- More than 10 publications: 11
- Between 1 and 10 publications: 13 in Scopus
Why is this?

Architectural researchers from TUM tend to publish…

… in German

… in non-academic journals

… books and other publication types

Architectural works can be building projects, case studies, architectural competitions, exhibitions, computer modelling, etc. and are documented through other means.
Potentials
## Potentials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LinkedIn</th>
<th>Xing</th>
<th>ResearchGate</th>
<th>Academia.edu</th>
<th>Mendeley</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target group</strong></td>
<td>professionals</td>
<td>professionals</td>
<td>academics</td>
<td>academics and students</td>
<td>international</td>
<td>international</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Distribution</strong></td>
<td>international, emphasis on US</td>
<td>mainly established in German speaking countries</td>
<td>mainly established among STEM, emphasis on US</td>
<td>all subjects, mainly established among the humanities</td>
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<td><strong>Alexa Rank (June 2016)</strong></td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>795</td>
<td>9635</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number of registered users 2016</strong></td>
<td>43 million</td>
<td>7.5 million (DACH*)</td>
<td>&gt; 9 million (1st quarter 2016)</td>
<td>&gt; 38 million (1st quarter 2016)</td>
<td>&gt; 4 million (April 2016)</td>
<td>1,000,000 unique visits/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monthly active users (MAU) / visitors</strong></td>
<td>10 million</td>
<td>6 million (DACH*); 12 million (worldwide)</td>
<td>&gt; 2.3 million (Jan. 2012)</td>
<td>38 million (unique visitors/ month - 1st quarter 2016)</td>
<td>&gt; 2 million (Jan. 2012)</td>
<td>256 million MAU</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TUM-affiliation</strong></td>
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<td>n.s.</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
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<td><strong>Users 2014</strong></td>
<td>206 million</td>
<td>7.5 million (DACH*)</td>
<td>&gt; 5 million (Nov. 2014)</td>
<td>13 million (Sept. 2014)</td>
<td>2.5 million (Sept. 2013)</td>
<td>265 million MAU</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Applications</strong></td>
<td>profile services, contacts, endorsements, recommendations</td>
<td>profile services, contacts, recommendations, groups</td>
<td>profile services, contacts, list of publications, discussions</td>
<td>profile services, contacts, list of publications</td>
<td>list of publications, reference management, groups, trends</td>
<td>short message service and communication platform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Profile</strong></td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C.V.</strong></td>
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<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td><strong>Contacts visible?</strong></td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td><strong>Groups</strong></td>
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<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td><strong>Publications (list of references)</strong></td>
<td>can be n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number of publications</strong></td>
<td>n.s.</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>81 million (1st quarter 2016)</td>
<td>23 million (June 2016)</td>
<td>n.s. - (in 2013: 480 million)</td>
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<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td>yes</td>
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<td>19 million</td>
<td>13.8 million (June 2016)</td>
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<td>yes: awards, images, videos, PDFs</td>
<td>yes: e.g. experiment findings, negative results, raw data, technical report; focus on SE</td>
<td>yes: e.g. book reviews, talks, teaching documents; focus on humanities</td>
<td>yes: e.g. case, encyclopedia article, data, film; all subject areas</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Review</strong></td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Citations from within platform</strong></td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes: Scopus</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Citations from external sources</strong></td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes, sources not transparent</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
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<td><strong>Other metrics</strong></td>
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<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes: RG Score; Impact Points and h-Index, not completely transparent</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specifics</strong></td>
<td>wide distribution</td>
<td>mainly established in German speaking countries</td>
<td>mainly established among STEM, metrics</td>
<td>support Open Science and Open Access</td>
<td>combination with reference management</td>
<td>completely open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Academic Networking Sites" by Tina Hohmann, https://mediatum.ub.tum.de/node?id=1320996

TUM: Visibility on alternative academic platforms

2 professors have a profile in Google Scholar
8 professors are in ResearchGate
5 professors are in Academia.edu
21 out of 29 have no presence in any of these

Number of professors with profiles in Google Scholar, ResearchGate and Academia.edu
Looking for **Best Practice**

![QS World University Rankings](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Verified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>UCL (University College London)</td>
<td>🇬🇧</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Delft University of Technology</td>
<td>🇳🇱</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To what extent are architectural researchers from top institutions represented in the databases Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus?
Top institutions in WoS

Number of professors with publications in WoS

Comparison: TUM
Top institutions in Scopus

Number of professors with publications in Scopus
To what extent are architectural researchers from top institutions represented in Google Scholar, ResearchGate and Academia.edu?
Top institutions in GS, RG and Academia

Out of 35 researchers:
15 have a profile in Google Scholar
17 researchers are in ResearchGate
24 researchers are in Academia.edu

Number of professors with profiles in Google Scholar, ResearchGate and Academia.edu

Comparison: TUM
Are there differences among the architectural sub-disciplines?
A  Architecture / Design / Arts
B  Planning / Urban Studies / Landscape / Built Environment
C  Building Technology
D  Computation
E  History / Theory / Criticism
F  Project Management
Sub-disciplines / Research areas compared

A Architecture / Design / Arts
B Planning / Urban Studies / Landscape / Built Environment
C Building Technology
D Computation
E History / Theory / Criticism
F Project Management
Sub-disciplines in databases

Based on a selection of architectural researchers from M.I.T., UCL, TU Delft, and TUM
Sub-disciplines and alternative academic platforms

Based on a selection of architectural researchers from M.I.T., TU Delft, UCL and TUM.
Is there a relation between the presence on databases and academic alternative platforms?
High profile researchers on alternative platforms

Out of 18 researchers

Professors with at least 10 publications in WoS and Scopus
Highly active researchers in databases

Professors with profiles on all academic platforms
What potential do alternative academic platforms offer to architectural researchers?
1. Open Access and Visibility

„...to avoid pay-walls, to be able to read papers by colleagues as well as make all my papers accessible in one place.“*

* Quoted from TUM researchers, translated by the author
2. Publication types

Professor A from TUM, Architectural Computing
2. Publication types

Professor B from TUM, Landscape Architecture
3. Academic communication

Current Awareness

Discussions (ResearchGate)

Open review (Academia.edu and ResearchGate)
Different views

„Using Academia resulted in a completely new dimension for my research.“*

„both platforms seem to be some game, most of all with personal vanities; I focus more time and energy on developing content than using these superficial and short-lived platforms.“*

* Quoted from TUM and TUD researchers, translated by the author
Results

Researchers that are well presented in databases tend to be also well presented on alternative academic platforms, and vice versa.

There are significant differences for the architectural sub-disciplines.

Academic platforms can’t substitute major databases, but have the potential to improve visibility for architects and their works.
Implication at TUM Department of Architecture

„Glückwünsche zur Masterthesis“ by TUM department of Architecture
Research Support Programme (faculty board, 17.5.2017)

Career development:
Research and publishing in architecture at TUM

Technical University of Munich
Department of Architecture
May/June 2017

mediaTUM – the media and publications repository of the Technical University Munich
mediaTUM supports the publication of digital documents and research data as well as the use of multimedia content in research and teaching. More than 203,000 public records, documents and images are available at the moment. Content published here is indexed by many third-party services such as the German National Library and Google Scholar.

Selected collections

- Collections of the Departments and Institutions
- Image archive at Corporate Communication Center
- Master, PhD and Habilitation Theses
- Agricultural Engineering Collection AgBio
- Collection of Architectural Museum
- Castells Collection

TUM.University Press

Academia
ORCID
ResearchGate
Google Scholar
Scopus

Click here to see my profile
Scopus author identifier

Tina Hohmann (TUM) | Information Services | University Library
Contact: Tina Hohmann (tina.hohmann@ub.tum.de)