CHOOSING AND USING ACADEMIC SHARING AND NETWORKING PLATFORMS
Professional networking and sharing tools are in widespread use in academia. What can these tools do for you, and how should you choose among them?

Academic sharing and networking platforms may enable you to discover publications of interest to you and share your publications freely; present a public view (profile) of your scholarship; demonstrate impact by showing downloads, citation counts, or other metrics; network and find experts or collaborators; and preserve your work for the long term.

Some of these services are offered by commercial entities; others are offered by libraries and independent, non-profit organizations. Consider the mission and motivation of the service provider and read their terms of service and privacy policies. If you don’t trust the major social networks, you might not trust the academic equivalents either.

And before you post your publications to any service, make sure that you’re legally entitled to do so. If you didn’t save your publication agreement, look up the sharing policies of the journal in which you published using SHERPA/RoMEO: sherpa.ac.uk/romeo
Noncommercial platforms

**eCommons**, a service of Cornell University Library, provides long-term access to a broad range of Cornell-related digital content of enduring value. Use it to share your scholarly work with the world and to access the work of others at Cornell.

**ORCID** provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes you from other researchers. It is used in key research workflows such as manuscript and grant submission. It supports automated links between you and your professional activities, ensuring that you get credit for your work. ORCID can also be used to create a public profile.

**Some e- or preprint servers**, such as arXiv, are noncommercial entities that support the sharing of scholarly work.
Commercial platforms

Academia.edu* and ResearchGate are commercial platforms that primarily facilitate content sharing and networking. Mendeley does the same, while also being a citation management tool. Google Scholar is primarily a search engine for scholarly content, and can be used to create an author profile with impact metrics.

*Academia.edu registered its domain name prior to the requirement that .edu domain names be held only by post-secondary education institutions.
## Platforms compared

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Icons by Becris, Ralf Schmitzer, Alain W., Adrien Coquet, Fauzan Admiima, and Aneeque Ahmed for the Noun Project.
Resources

eCommons
- eCommons: ecommons.cornell.edu
- eCommons help: guides.library.cornell.edu/ecommons

ORCID
- Cornell University Library's ORCID guide: guides.library.cornell.edu/orcid
- ORCID website: orcid.org

Author rights and copyright
- Author rights guide: guides.library.cornell.edu/authorrights
- Cornell Copyright Information Center: copyright.cornell.edu
- Open access publishing guide: guides.library.cornell.edu/openaccess
- SHERPA/RoMEO: sherpa.ac.uk/romeo

Articles
- University of California Office of Scholarly Communication. 2015. A social networking site is not an open access repository.

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