Investigation of ResearcherID Platform’s Application and Promotion in Chinese Universities

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Abstract. This paper introduces important functions of the ResearcherID platform and main advantages of promoting this application. We point out the problems for the use of this platform in China, analyze the reasons to cause these problems, put forward the blueprint for the professional management team of academic information databases. Finally, we show that for universities the decisional reference data not only enhance world-wide collaborations but also understand the dynamic development trend of academic investigation.

Introduction

University ranking has become a hot topic these days, as the ranking can affect not only admissions and employment, but also government’s financial support. Among the factors determining the rank, the number of papers published by teachers and students from universities and the number of citations of those are the most important ones. Therefore, it becomes a task for a university to increase the influence and the number of citations, in order to raise the recognition for both the university and the scholars.

Primarily, there are two ways to increase the number of citations. First is to publish papers in prestigious journals. A high quality paper depends on a number of factors such as the academic level, the scholars’ effort, the available funds, and the area of investigation. Apart from the first way, enhancing the influence of research findings, i.e., elevating the recognition of community on papers published by scholars, is another way to increase the number of citations, and is a quicker and more efficient one.

Nowadays, the general strategy taken by world-wide universities is to encourage the scholars to join the Academic Social Network Sites (ASNS), which is solely based on research specialist staffs, so the recognition of both their papers and themselves can be enhanced. Using ASNS the scholars can create academic archives, upload academic publications, and find academic social network circle of one’s own. The most commonly used ASNS includes ResearcherID, ResearchGate, GoogleScholar and BaiduXueshu. This paper focuses on ResearcherID’s platform information.

ResearcherID’s Status

Clarivate Analytics officially launched ResearcherID in January 2008. It provides unique identity number for members of the academic research community, allows scholars to create their own lists of works and produce personal citation information, by which scholars from all over the world will be able to read the research findings. It efficiently deals with the problem over different interpretations on scholars’ names. By the use of this platform, scholars can not only show their research specialty and findings, but also explore or attract potential partners, and transcend across time and space to communicate and collaborate with researchers over the globe.

However, through research we find that most scholars are unable to recognize the functions of ResearcherID, as few scholars in Chinese universities have registered on ResearcherID, and for those who have done so, they have encountered countless problems in the process of utilization. Errors
include the improper spelling or obvious mistakes of individual and organization’s name in accounts registered, the missing description over research area and specialty, and the incomplete list of works created. This leads to the unavailability of ResearcherID in describing the research level, hence it affects the academic evaluation of the scholar and the intention to corporate.

Facing the Internet era, scholars need to deliver accurate, complete and proper personal information to fully show the research level, and lay the foundation for further technical communication. If we want to use the ResearcherID platform to enhance corporation with scholars and institutions worldwide, it is necessary to have precise and suitable description of personal information.

**ResearcherID’s Features**

ResearcherID provides features that include papers recommendation, Tweeter visits, papers download and bibliometric index analysis, which are suitable for constructing academic information platform.

**Provide a Clear Ascription of Academic Works**

ResearcherID eliminates the different interpretations in scholars’ names, and provides a clear ascription of the academic published works. It provides unique identification number for academic research community members, and through which solves the confusion of names in the scholarly literature (the “Who is Who” problem), and clarifies the precise ascription for academic published works.

**Establish Personal List of Works to Show the Research Findings**

Scholars use ResearcherID to create their own list of works, which makes it easy for them to manage and increases exposure of their research findings.

Scholars can import documents through 3 ways after logging in: via Web of Science platform to search and import, via web version EndNote, or via reference management software like EndNote and RefMan. The perfect combination of ResearcherID and EndNote seamlessly connects the academic communication platform with the scholar’s personal library. Scholars are able to construct their own international academic communication platform to exhibit their research findings and track the citation times of their works.

**ResearcherID Labs**

ResearcherID Labs is an interactive environment that encourages further exploration, promotion and corporation. It contains two modules: the collaboration network and the citing articles network.

The collaboration network module provides an Internet map of the coauthor, with the purpose of establishing relationship between scholars and collaborator, research area, and research institute, in order to construct a research collaboration network with scholar as the center. Figure 1 displays (up to) this scholar's top 20 co-authors. Data are presented in descending frequency order.
The citing articles network is based on the citation data of works included in Web of Science. It provides the author’s Internet map and hyperlink of his ResearcherID, so that researchers can track the author’s information, maximizing the convenience in academic research communication. What’s more, the citing articles network produces a time distribution curve, which establishes the relationship between ResearcherID of scholars and information of the cited work. Figure 2 displays (up to) the top 20 institutions for publications that have cited this scholar. Data are presented in descending frequency order.

Automatic Formation of Citation Report

ResearcherID platform can dynamically update the citation metrics, and automatically forms a citation report that contains multiple evaluation indexes for academic achievement of scholars, such as H index, citations per year, total citations and citations per paper. The influence of the achievement in the world can be measured through the citation distribution map for the scholar’s work. Figure 3 shows the number of times the articles on the publication list have been cited in each of the last 20 years.
Promotion of ResearcherID in Chinese Universities

Some Chinese universities have already started to use the ResearcherID platform, but are not making any progress due to the narrow applicable areas. Therefore, more efforts should be put in for promotion and application of the platform.

Increase the Advertising Effort, and Encourage the Researchers to Sign up for ResearcherID Independently

By increasing the advertising effort, universities can encourage scholars to sign up for ResearcherID accounts, and give out requirement for filling of standardized information.

However, scholars usually are so focused on teaching and research, that without specific department in charge to manage the advertising measures, the situation may evolve to be uncontrollable. For instance, large number of repeated records may be produced, no continuing updates and management after registration, or no efficient use of related data.

Therefore, solely dependent on promotion to increase the registration number looks easy and direct on the surface, yet is actually hard to control and solve problems in essence, and thus cannot reach desired effects.

Organize Professional Team for Professional Management

Universities usually have large libraries, which has library information workers with abundant specialized knowledge and work experience in organizing and managing information. They are both familiar with the use of database of all kinds, and are able to precisely capture valuable material from overwhelming amount of information. Moreover, they can measure the academic achievement and influence of users via evaluation indexes for works.

Library information and computer scientists can form professional teams. Library information specialists will be responsible for information collection and standardization of scholars’ emails, names, specialties, research areas and other personal information, as well as the information of published works. Computer scientists will be in charge of the ResearcherID’s platform management and operational maintenance.

ResearcherID platform administrator manages and maintains it through ResearcherID Web Services. The administrator can register ResearcherID account for scholars by uploading standardized documents containing personal and published works’ information (Excel, XML). He can also request agent access to edit configuration files, protecting the information of scholars.
Once the basic platform construction is completed, library information specialists can assist the scholars to verify, replenish and improve the platform information. They can also carry out data analysis, such as using ResearcherID platform’s collaboration network and citing articles network to discover the distribution of certain area’s hotspot, and help researchers to choose potential collaborators.

ResearcherID gathers large volume of scholarly literature, and these data can be utilized to integrate application with existing institutional repository and research information management system. In this way, the relationship and value of relationship between multiple indexes can be fully discovered. Based on the situation of specific university, professional teams can consider integrating their own institutional repository and research information management system with ResearcherID, and through which maximizes the influence of this platform.

Therefore, professional teams can help scholars to standardize personal information in ResearcherID platform, and update them on time. With their rich work experience, the team can provide help and support for scholars. Also, the nicely organized and constructed ResearcherID will become the database for both researchers and their research findings. It lays a solid foundation for collecting statistics of scholarly works and their academic level, provides reference for subject construction, and grasps the research outcomes of different departments more easily. Moreover, multiple informatics research can be carried out to analyze the trend and development of scholars in universities, which will provide reference for developmental decisions of particular a subject.

**Summary**

With professional teams in charge of the ResearcherID’s construction and promotion, users’ information and the following maintenance can be more efficiently standardized. In this way, teachers and students can communicate and search in high-level academic areas, scholars can enhance their recognition, and hence increase the chance of collaboration. Meanwhile, managers of universities can have a precise grasp of subject potential, strengthen subject management, elevate competitiveness of advantageous subjects, and consolidate specialty of the university. It pushes the construction of a high-recognition university based on specific features and potentials, and in turn increases the rank. As for the library work, information science has played an active role in the process of construction.
References


