

Academic Networking Sites

Comparing Networking Platforms

LinkedIn, Xing, ResearchGate, Academia.edu, Mendeley and Twitter

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Information Services

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	Linkedin	Xing	ResearchGate	Academia.edu	Mendeley	Twitter
URL	https://www.linkedin.com/	https://www.xing.com/	https://www.researchgate.net	https://www.academia.edu/	https://blog.mendeley.com/	https://twitter.com/
Founded	2002	2003	2008	2008	2008	2006
Target group	professionals	professionals	academics	academics and students	academics	all / general
Distribution	international, emphasis on US	mainly established in German speaking countries	mainly established among STEM, emphasis on US	all subjects, mainly established among the humanities	international	international
Alexa Rank (June 2016)	18	1020	583	765	9635	8
Number of registered users 2016	433 million / 7 million in D (1 st quarter 2016)	10,6 million in D, A and CH* (1 st quarter 2016)	> 9 million (1 st quarter 2016)	> 38 million (1 st quarter 2016)	> 4 million (April 2016)	1.000 million unique visits/month
Monthly active users (MAU) / visitors	106 million (1 st quarter 2016)	47,5 million (visits/month - April 2016)	n.s.	36 million (unique visitors/month - 1 st quarter 2016)	n.s.	310 million
TUM-affiliation	n.s.	n.s.	> 9.000 (1 st quarter 2016)	ca. 1.500 (June 2016)	n.s.	n.s.
Users 2014	296 million	7,5 million (DACH*)	> 5 million (Nov. 2014)	13 million (Sept. 2014)	2,5 million (Sept. 2013)	255 million MAU
Users 2012	161 million	6 million (DACH*); 12,9 (worldwide)	> 2,3 million (Jan. 2012)	> 2 million (Jan. 2012)	> 2 million (Nov. 2012)	138 million MAU
Applications	profile services, contacts, endorsements, recommendations	profile services, contacts, recommendations, groups	profile services, contacts, list of publications, discussions	profile services, contacts, list of publications	list of publications, reference management, groups, trends	short message service and communication platform
Profile	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
C.V.	yes	yes	no	yes, as separate document	yes	no
Research interests	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Contacts	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Contacts visible?	only for own contacts	only for own contacts	yes	yes	yes	yes
Groups	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no
Discussions	yes, within groups	yes, within groups	yes	no	yes, within groups	yes
Publications (list of references)	yes, with limited bibliographic details	not specified, PDFs can be added	yes	yes	yes	no, just web links in tweet
Number of publications	n.s.	n/a	81 million (1 st quarter 2016)	23 million (Juni 2016)	n.s. - (in 2013: 460 million)	n/a
Full text	no	n/a	yes	yes	yes	no
Number of full text	n/a	n/a	19 million	13,8 million (Juni 2016)	n.s.	n/a
Other document types	yes: presentation, awards, patents, projects	yes: awards, images, videos, PDFs	yes: e.g. experiment findings, negative results, raw data, technical report; focus on SE	yes: e.g. book reviews, talks, teaching documents; focus on humanities	yes: e.g. case, encyclopedia article, data, film; all subject areas	no
Open Review	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
Citations from within platform	no	no	yes	no	no	retweets
Citations from external sources	no	no	yes, sources not transparent	no	yes: Scopus	no
Other metrics	no	no	yes: RG Score; Impact Points and h-Index, not completely transparent	no	yes: readers, h-Index	no
Specifics	wide distribution	mainly established in German speaking countries	mainly established among STEM, metrics	support Open Science and Open Access	combination with reference management	completely open

* DACH = Germany, Austria and Switzerland