

OR2010 Presentation Proposal:

Author identifiers: 1) Services at arXiv and 2) ORCID and repositories

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I will present two separate but related topics where experience with the first provides much of my perspective with the second.

Public author identifiers and services based on them were introduced in March 2009 and early work and design was reported at OR09. The original services have been running for a year now and additional facilities have been added. I will report on uptake and usage patterns, and describe the more popular services.

ORCID is an exciting initiative involving both commercial and academic participants that aims to build a registry and assign identifiers to address the author ambiguity problem. I will report on the current status of this rapidly evolving project and suggest how the repository community may contribute to and benefit from it.

1 Author identifier based services at arXiv

Since the introduction of opt-in author identifiers at arXiv in March 2009 there has been steady, but not overwhelming, uptake. A little over 2200 users (out of a total of over 100k, or about 2%) have created author identifiers. These identifiers provide simple HTML pages, Atom feeds, and JSON output of an author's submissions. The JSON output is used to feed a JavaScript widget, Facebook and LinkedIn. A list of services with summary usage data is given in table 1.

Venue	Service	Launched	Usage
arXiv	author id creation	2009-03	2380 created, 50 new/week
Web/HTML	author page widget	2009-03	2000 accesses to 400 ids/week
		2009-03	2000 accesses to 60 ids/week
Facebook	MyArXiv	2009-03	2200 users, 780 active
	my papers		300 users, 20 new/month
	share or alert	2009-08	200 users, 25 new/month
	tagging authors	2009-10	very little
LinkedIn	MyArXiv	2010-03	(new)

Figure 1: Summary of author identifier based services at arXiv and their use

I will describe some of these services and the usage patterns. We have only recently had access to the LinkedIn API to create simple facilities there (the API is much less powerful than the Facebook

API). I will be interesting to see whether the more professional focus of LinkedIn leads to different usage patterns than on Facebook.

2 ORCID and repositories

The Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID, <http://orcid.secsites.net/>) is an effort to create an open, independent registry of researcher and contributor identifiers. The stated mission is *to resolve the systemic name ambiguity, by means of assigning unique identifiers linkable to an individual's research output, to enhance the scientific discovery process and improve the efficiency of funding and collaboration*. Importantly the founding parties include not only the leading commercial players (Thomson Reuters, Elsevier, Nature, etc.) but also open repository projects (INSPIRE, ADS, SSRN, arXiv). This is an unprecedented opportunity to address the name disambiguation problem in scholarly communication and to provide an effective substitute for many author identity based services. The effort can only achieve its full potential if the academic community, primarily disciplinary and institutional repositories, is an active partner.

I will present a very brief *official* update on ORCID activities and then describe how I think this effort may be used in, and will benefit, the repository community.

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