A short position outline for the workshop on understanding the impact of the web on scholarly communication (UIWoSC)

Dr Miltos Petridis

Computer Science Department, the University of Greenwich, Park Row, London SE10 9LS

M.Petridis@gre.ac.uk

Over the past 10 to 15 years, the ubiquitous use of web on scholarly communication has had a profound effect on scholarly communication. The early and widespread availability and accessibility of web resources and technologies meant that the academic community has had a long period to experiment, adopt and adapt web technologies to support the key academic activities in teaching, research and enterprise activities.

The technologies an methods for the use of the web to support teaching activities through e-learning have matured and are becoming widely available and expected in any modern university course. However, the effect of the web to support scholarly communications is much wider than this scope.

An analysis of the scope and the complexity of web supported communications can be based on the identification of key stakeholders in scholarly activities. A short list of such stakeholders can be:

- Academics
- Learners
- Industry
- Professional\Scholarly bodies
- Academic administration
- Public
- Funding bodies, regulators

From this identification we could start mapping and populating the type of web assistance that is normal to key scholarly communications between these stakeholders. Table 1 below shows a simplistic attempt to capture the types of web assisted scholarly communications between these stakeholders. An additional dimension could be to differentiate identify the type of communication/function assisted, such as teaching, research, enterprise or admin. These however usually overlap significantly and not all of them can be readily identified as scholarly communications, although most contribute or support scholarly communications in some way.

The key issues and challenges that need to be addressed are related to:

- IPR
- Scholarly Authority
- Research methods and Ethics on the Web
- Suitability and scalability of systems, frameworks and systems
- The creation of virtual groups and effective communities of practice across:
    - organisational boundaries
    - disciplines
    - borders
- The reduction of signal to noise ratio in scholarly communications
- Enabling effective innovation and change.

	Academics	Learners	Industry	Professional\Scholarly bodies	Academic administration / regulators	Public	Funding bodies, regulators
Academics	Email, Forums, online conferenceswebinars, wikis, Social networking web sites (linkedin etc) , Mailing lists conference and SIG admin systems	E-learning	White papers, Social networking sites, special interest web sites, online, conferences, mailing lists	Professional body web sites, social networking sites, on-line events, mailing lists	Intranets, Audit summaries, benchmark, regulation	Public forums, web sites, podcasts	Funding calls, strategic documents, metrics, online events, social networking facilitation sites, Web sites featuring Benchmarks, regulations, audit results, Mailing lists
Learners		Learner forums, self-help groups, social networking sites	Job sites, industrial placement sites	On line resources, social networking facilitation, events	Academic Information Systems, curriculum reference systems, regulations	Public forums, special interest/project web sites, public social networking sites	Web resources featuring funding, grants information, regulation
Industry			Business sector/ Specialist interest web sites/ social netwoeking sites	Professional body web sites, social networking sites, on-line events	University / institute sites, on line forums, industry panels	Industry sector/ company sites, online training, online events, mailing lists	Funding calls, strategic documents, metrics, online events, social networking facilitation sites, Web sites featuring Benchmarks, regulations, audit results, Mailing lists
Professional\Scholarly bodies				Prof/Scholarly bodies, web sites and cohosting of events/ special forums	Academic accreditation, Web sites containing benchmarks, strategic papers etc	Publically facing web sites, events, resources, press releases	Web sites and forums
Academic administration					Web forums, on line communities of practice	Publicly facing websites Press releases, facts and figures, FOI	Email circulars, web enables regulation, audit
Public						Public social networking, blogging	Publicly facing web sites
Funding bodies, regulators							Government forums, guidance papers, methods

Table 1

This outline sets out a view on a methodology for an effective address the issue of scholarly communications assisted by Web technologies and system based on the identification of stakeholders, web assisted communications and interactions and the identification of key issues and challenges.

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