

Science and the Internet

von Alexander Tokar, Michael Beurskens, Susanne Keuneke, Merja Mahrt, Isabella Peters, Cornelius Puschmann, Timo van Treeck and Katrin Weller (Eds.)

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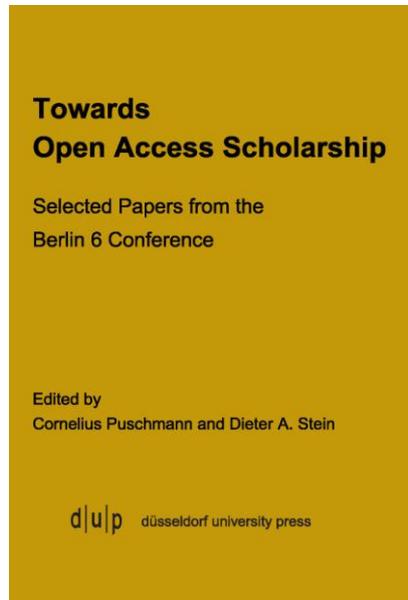
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Do psychologists in Germany now search for relevant research publications on the Internet in the same way they did at the end of the 1990s? Does the use of social media in teaching really produce better learning outcomes because of the informal learning potential inherent in social media? Do university students participate more actively as text contributors in bottom-up wikis initiated by their fellow students than they do in top-down wikis initiated by their instructors? What can we do about ethical beliefs pertaining to the use of the Internet in academia that are not in accordance with the law (e.g., a belief that forwarding a digital copy of an article to a colleague is a good thing even if the publishing contract explicitly grants this right to the publisher only)? What are the main motives behind scholarly blogging? Which groups of scientists are more likely to self-cite their peer-reviewed publications in their blog posts? Can citations in Web 2.0 such as, for example, retweeting on Twitter and social bookmarking on Delicious serve as indicators of the academic impact of a particular scholar? Which bibliometric tools can a scholar rely on in order to keep track of all citations of his or her publications? Will scientific texts be soon written by computers instead of human beings? These are some of the most important issues addressed in 21 papers of the present interdisciplinary volume, which is concerned with the influence of the Internet on various scholarly practices in Germany and worldwide.

The editors of the volume are members of the Interdisciplinary Junior Researchers Group “Science and the Internet” at the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany.

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**Towards Open Access Scholarship
Selected Papers from the Berlin 6 Conference**

Dieter Stein und Cornelius Puschmann (Hrsg.)

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Open Access, the free availability of scholarly works in digital form, is more and more becoming the standard way in which researchers communicate their findings both to peers and to the general public. Yet the systematic change prompted by the move towards Open Access also means significant challenges for the publishers, librarians and authors, as the established mechanisms of scholarly knowledge transmission are reconfigured.

This volume contains eight papers produced to expand the talks held at the Berlin 6 Open Access Conference that took place in November 2008 in Düsseldorf, Germany. It addresses the needs, views and fundamental aspects that are crucial to the success of Open Access: policy frameworks to enable it (Horst Forster, Deirdre Furlong), economic and organizational structures to make it viable and sustainable (John Houghton; Anne Gentil-Beccot, Salvatore Mele, and Jens Vigen) concrete platforms in different regions (Abel L. Packer *et al.*) and disciplines (Christiane Fritze, Sünje Dallmeier-Tiessen and Hans Pfeiffenberger) to serve as models, and finally technical standards to support it (Christian Zier). By representing data, models and real-life examples related to the implementation of Open Access this collection of articles demonstrates that OA is not merely progressive in theory, but essential to the dissemination of scientific knowledge in the future.