Innovations in scholarly communication survey results

The Emerald publishing group has just released a report of findings of a survey amongst 1000 authors who have contributed to their publications, on innovations in scholarly communication. The survey, designed at Utrecht University, investigated how and what digital tools scholars are using in the various stages of producing research.

The Emerald publishing group maintains a portfolio of some 300 journals, 2500 books, case studies and digital products in the areas of business and management, marketing, library studies and education as well as research methods. In 2014, more than 24.8 million Emerald articles were downloaded and read in research and study. (http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/index.htm).

The broad findings of the survey revealed the following:

- In terms of publication, 38% of respondents use an institutional repository with mature researchers more likely to use this route than new researchers
- 18% of respondents use Open Access routes to publish and 34% or respondents considered the growth of Open Access as the major future change expected to occur along with online networking and sharing
- Most scholars (89%) responded that in terms of discovery of and access to information, this was done through institutional resources, but as many as 61% use ResearchGate.
- Google Scholar is dominant as the key content search tool for over 90% of Emerald researchers with Google Scholar and ResearchGate being the primary tools which scholars are using to gain alerts and recommendations about new work
- In terms of where to publish, roughly 50% of authors use Journal Citation Reports and Scopus to help decide
- Just over half of the scholars who were surveyed use electronic tools to communicate to an audience outside academia. Twitter is used by 38% of scholars for this purpose as opposed to 11% who use Facebook and 9% LinkedIn. Authors in medicine dominate in terms of Twitter use with 79% of authors working in the fields of medicine being most likely to use Twitter
- Over half of the scholars responding to the survey were using EndNote as their preferred reference management tool, the tool being particularly popular in Australasia and less so in Europe.

To view the full report, click on http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/promo/research.htm