

Abstract

Background and Objective: Regarding the impact of technology and communication technologies, methods and channels of human communication have new dimensions including Web 2 capabilities and scientific social networking. Participating in scientific social networks to increase the transfer of information and use collective knowledge can lead to the promotion of science. Measures available on social networking sites evaluate the influence of individuals based on the number of documents released, the number of documents viewed, marked, uploaded, liked, or the number of people who follow the activities of a researcher. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effect of Kerman University of Medical Sciences faculty members' membership on social science networks on their scientific indices.

Materials and Method: This study was a cross-sectional study with descriptive-analytical approach. The study population included profiles of all faculty members of Kerman University of Medical Sciences in the Scopus database from 2010 to 2016. Initially, the name and surname, scientific rank, gender, and specialty of individuals were extracted from the scientific system of medical universities of Iran. Information on scientific productions and citations was collected from the Scopus database. Then, the authors' names along with the organizational characteristics of each person were investigated in Researchgate and Mendeley and components such as the number of documents, score points, readability, full-text articles, followers and number of citations were extracted and analyzed using SPSS software 22. Pearson correlation coefficient was calculated at the significant level of $P < 0.05$.

Results: The results showed that production of articles at Scopus database has been increasing in the years studied. The study population was 461, of which 256 were men and 205 were women. Results showed that 50.8% of the members were members of Researchgate and 79.4% were members of Mendeley. There was no significant relationship between gender and membership in these networks. The frequency of science production was higher among faculty members compared to non-faculty members. Other results showed that there was a significant relationship between receiving citations in Scopus database and membership in scientific networks. The findings showed a strong positive correlation between the H-index with RG score and the number of followers in the Researchgate network. There was also a significant relationship between receiving citations and accessing full-text articles. The results showed that there was a significant relationship between citations in Scopus database and readability in Researchgate and Mendeley with correlation coefficient of 0.476 and 0.596, respectively.

Conclusion: The results of the present study showed that self-archiving of articles in scientific social networks can increase the visibility and readability of articles which will increase citations. On the other hand, given the significant relationship between the H-index and the RG score, this score can be used as a complementary index alongside the traditional ones for evaluating the scientific activities of researchers.

Keywords: Social Science Networks, Scientometric Indicators, Scopus, Researchgate, Mendeley, Kerman University of Medical Sciences.