

A note about the use of ResearchGate

[ResearchGate](#) is a commercial social networking site where scientists and researchers can share papers, ask and answer questions, and find collaborators. The site has been described as ‘a mashup of Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn’ that includes ‘profile pages, comments, groups, job listings, and “like” and “follow” buttons’.

Pure versus ResearchGate

No link exists between Pure and ResearchGate. However, if you want to add a publication to ResearchGate, you can follow these [instructions on how to easily export a publication from Pure and then importing it into ResearchGate](#).

The other way around is not possible, as ResearchGate does not offer a way to export publications from it, thus making it a great deal of effort (and possibly loss of data) when you would try to 'export' it manually.

We therefore strongly advise you to maintain your publication list in Pure. If you think it is important to maintain a presence on ResearchGate, you can export your publication list from Pure and periodically upload your publications to ResearchGate.

Origins

The company behind ResearchGate was founded by Ijad Madisch, who wanted to open up data among scientists. Madisch envisioned a future in which scientists would publish their positive and negative results and data on his site instead of paying to publish it elsewhere. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is among the company's investors.

Members are encouraged to share raw data and failed experiment results as well as successes, in order to avoid repeating their peers' scientific research mistakes.

Pros

ResearchGate is free to join and currently claims to have about 3 million users mainly in the sciences. It offers the following benefits to researchers:

- Sharing publications
- Connecting with colleagues
- Seeking new collaborations
- Obtaining statistics and metrics on use of uploaded publications
- Asking questions to researchers around the world that have the same set of interests
- Job seeking or recruitment

Cons

However, there are some things you have to keep in mind when using ResearchGate:

- Most profiles contain only a small number of publications
- Many profiles appear not to have been updated for some time
- A high percentage of members are postgraduate and other students
- Many of the available publications are uploaded illegally
- ResearchGate does not mean compliance with funder policy
- There is no export functionality except for CVs