Academic blogging consequences for Open Science: a first insight into their potential impact

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Pillars – starting points

Pisa Declaration raises a number of **policy** issues about non formal channels of scholarly communication, including "**openness**".

The "**openness**" principle permeates the Scientific System in three main areas:

- *Knowledge **dissemination** – (Open Access)*
- Knowledge **creation** - (Open Science)
- Research **impact evaluation** – (AltMetrics)

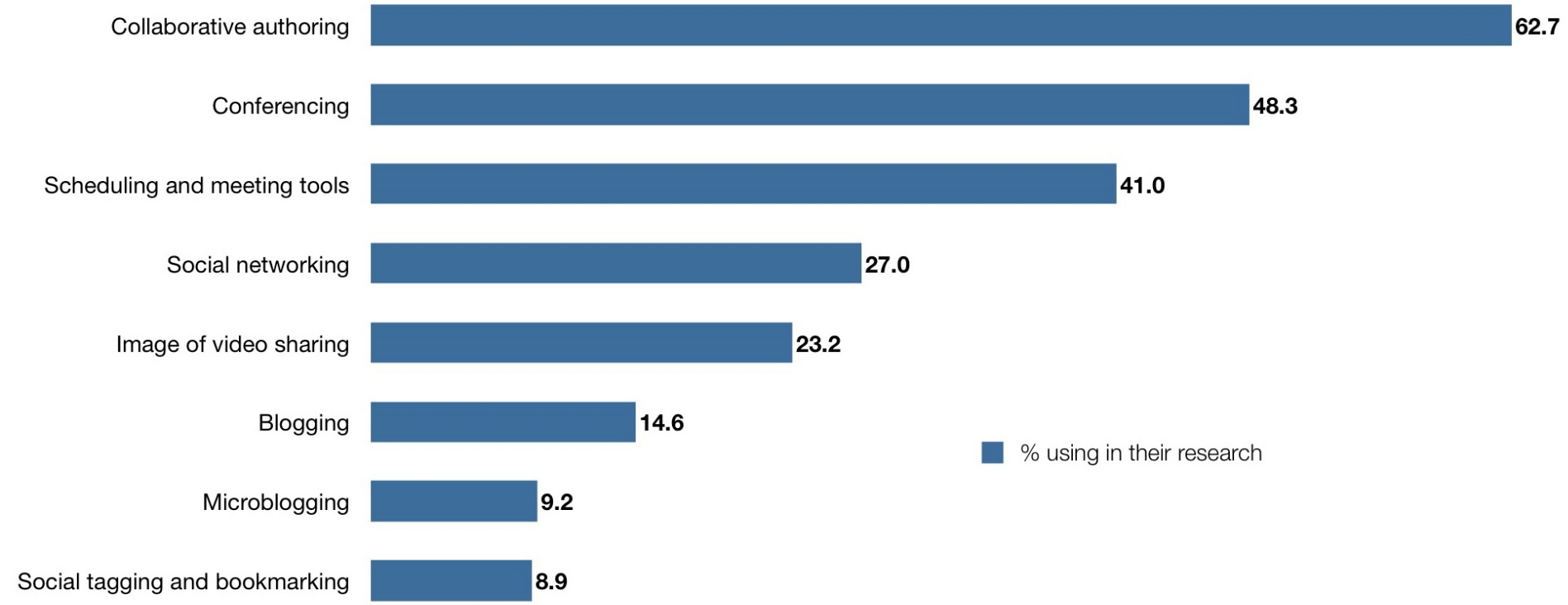
Academic Social Media constitute a quickly growing area of (relatively) new channels of Scholarly Communication.

Academic Social Media – typology /1

- Social networking
- **Blogging**
- Micro-blogging
- Collaborative authoring tools for sharing and editing documents
- Social tagging and bookmarking
- Scheduling and meeting tools
- Conferencing
- Image or video sharing

Academic Social Media – active users

Source: CIBER, 2010 /2



OpenEdition –Social Media in the Humanities and Social Sciences

OpenEdition offers the academic community four international-scale publication and information platforms in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Revues.org – 413 Journals

OpenEdition Books – 2538 books

Hypotheses – 1365 academic blogs

Calenda -29846 events

Academic blogs in OpenEdition /1
by subject categories …

Arts & Humanities (517)
Education (98)
History & Archaeology (552)
Library, Information & Communication sciences (145)
Multidisciplinary (436)
Political Science, Public Admin. & Development (124)
Psychology (32)
Public Health & Health Care Science (29)
Social Work & Social Policy (55)
Sociology & Anthropology (363)
Language & Linguistics (80)
Economics (39)
Law (34)
Literature (149)
Management (21)
Psychiatry (7)

Academic blogs in OpenEdition /2

Types of blogs

Research program blogs (301)

Research blogs (222)

Laboratory blogs (178)

Seminar blogs (118)

Thesis blogs (99)

Monitoring blogs (63)

Publication blogs (44)

Event blogs (44)

Non-specialist blogs (42)

Publication blogs (40)

Debate blogs (38)

Master's blogs (36)

Methodology blogs (31)

Library blogs (25)

Field work blogs (24)

Media blogs (9)

Bibliography (1)

Mapping between blog types and Open Science activities

Managing the research process:
Identifying a researchable topic
Planning a research project
Producing research output collaboratively
Releasing laboratory notebooks to the scholarly community
Keeping up with new developments
Getting help for solving topical problems
Participating in open peer reviewing
Monitoring one's impact

Disseminating research findings
Disseminating research results, ideas and opinions informally via blogs

Academic blogging and scholarly impact /1

Two classes of tools and methods:

Webometrics – quantitative techniques and tools for collecting data and calculating "indicators" like usage metadata (page views and downloads, Twitter counts, Facebook comments, science blog postings, bookmarkings and reference sharing numbers).

Altmetrics - evaluation methods of scholarly **activities** (not only publications) based on social media data that serve as alternatives to citation-based metrics.

Academic blogging and scholarly impact /2

Scholarly impact – two different dimensions:

Research impact: evaluating research performance through webmetrics is still in its infancy and still lacks of an established framework of evaluation.

Scholar reputation: sort of "*de facto*" assessment (also self-assessment) through statistical evidence regarding the impact, usage, or influence of one's own work.

Based on this distinction, detractors are used to state that "they serve as "**technologies of narcissism**", more than "**technologies of contro**l".

Academic blogging – Open Problems

Authority and trust - lack of quality filtering mechanisms

Unclear benefits

Technology barriers (e.g. bandwidth)

Uncertain moral rights – copyright protection

Difficulties in citing non traditional content

Lack of time

Lack of familiarity with social networking tools

Concluding remarks

Enabling technologies and **financial constraints** constitute major **drivers** for the ongoing move towards **Open Science**, where the "Openness" principle is moving from knowledge dissemination (Open Access) to the whole research cycle (Open Science).

Collaboration, **transparency**, **globalisation**, **scientific reputation** are the main keywords in this paradigm shift, and scholarly social media, and academic blogs in particular, constitute "*de facto*" means to achieve these goals.

Academic social media can support a new approach in the assessment of the **scholar reputation** and visibility, not yet in the evaluation of the **impact of the research output**.