PUBLONS
EVALUATING ACADEMIC RESEARCH

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MEDIA CONTACT
Andrew Preston
CEO, Publons
andrew@publons.com
+64 22 130 9381

Publons Launches DOI Support For Peer Reviews

Academics reviewing papers are finally getting the recognition they deserve

SEPTEMBER 18 2013 (Wellington, New Zealand) -- In a leap forward for the recognition of quality peer review, Publons announced today that high-quality reviews will now be citable and discoverable by being allocated unique Digital Object Identifiers (DOI).

Traditionally academics have quietly commented to their colleagues and peers on the articles they have read in academic journals. Many of these conversations likely had great merit, but given their ephemeral and conversational nature, the scientific advancement that they might have created has never been recorded.

That's all changing with Publons - an open access platform where the value of those thoughts and conversations is recognized and rewarded, allowing academics to build reputation for reviewing academic articles.

While DOIs are standard for published articles and datasets, the application of DOIs to peer review is a world first. Andrew Preston, Publons CEO and Founder, believes this is an important day, commenting: "Reviewers' valuable comments and observations are now given the credit they deserve, and this provides an incentive for reviewers to provide high quality reviews, improving both the underlying science and commentary."

The DOI feature is part of Publons' mission to make peer review and peer reviewers first class citizens in science. Publons is speeding up and increasing the communication around scientific research by allowing researchers, professors and students to review, rate, and discuss

research in a faster and easier way than traditional methods allow. "The aim is to become the central platform on the web where all academic research is discussed and peer reviewed", Preston says.

"Strong post-publication review is the holy grail of academic publishing," says Preston. "An ongoing dialog between authors and peers is the best way to develop, augment, and improve the sphere of human knowledge."

For academics, the assignment of DOIs helps to augment their publication record with a portfolio of reviews. This record can be used to strengthen applications for funding and jobs, and to collaborate in the academic community on a deeper level.

The use of DOIs has begun to influence science in many areas. Best known is Figshare, which allows researchers to make datasets available in a citable, shareable, and discoverable manner. Figshare founder Mark Hahnel says "With researchers now getting credit for all of their research outputs in their grant applications, we need better ways to filter content and provide better peer review. Open peer review is one place that could have a huge impact in this space if done right, and Publons seems to be on the right track to get there."

Publons is releasing this feature as it develops ways to help publishers streamline the pre-publication peer review process and reward the contributions of their peer reviewers.

About Publons
Publons is an open access peer review platform where academics can build reputation for reviewing, rating, and discussing academic research. The company was founded in 2013 in response to the frustrations of the academic publishing process that CEO and Founder Andrew Preston experienced during his PhD in physics and as a postdoctoral researcher at Boston University.

Publons is based in Wellington, New Zealand, and after graduating from the inaugural Lightning Lab startup accelerator batch, raised a seed capital round to help achieve its mission of speeding up science.

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