Reads

Reads is a simple metric to show you exactly how often your work and other people’s research is being accessed on ResearchGate, in real time.

We count and display the number of reads for each publication on ResearchGate, each question asked in Q&A, every project, and all project updates.

You can find out how many reads your publications, project updates, and questions are getting, which are getting the most reads, and which institutions and countries your reads are coming from. Your weekly stats report shows you which of your research items people are reading. You will also see who’s been reading your work (if the reader is on ResearchGate and allows others to see that they’ve read their work). This gives you the chance to connect with peers who are interested in your research.

How are reads calculated?

For a publication, a ‘read’ is counted each time someone views the publication summary (such as the title, abstract, and list of authors), clicks on a figure linked to the publication (either directly on the publication page or via the home feed), or views or downloads the full-text, if there is one. For questions and projects, a ‘read’ is counted each time someone views the question or project page. A ‘read’ of a project update is only counted if someone looks at that particular project update.

To show the full reach of your work, we count reads from both logged in ResearchGate members and logged out readers.

To make sure reads gives you an accurate picture of the attention your research is getting, a read isn’t counted when you or one of your coauthors accesses your own publication, when you view your own question or project update, or if you or a collaborator looks at one of your own projects. It is also not counted when your work is accessed by an artificial traffic source (such as a robot or bot). We’re continuously working on improving our ability to detect different sources of artificial traffic to make sure we show you accurate metrics.

Please get in touch if you notice anything unusual with your stats.

Why have my stats decreased?

Your stats and those of others may have decreased because we’ve been working extensively to give you a more accurate picture of the attention your research is getting on ResearchGate.

As part of this, we remove traffic from artificial sources from our members’ stats. This means that visits by automated programs like crawlers and bots, which remotely load pages and download content to retrieve information, aren’t counted. Reads also aren’t counted when you or one of your co-authors accesses one of your own publications, you view your own question or project update, or you or a collaborator looks at one of your own projects.

We’re continuously working on detecting unusual patterns of activity that could skew your stats. Please get in touch if you notice anything unusual with your stats.