

# Reads

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**Reads** is a simple metric designed to show you exactly how often 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 and answer added in Q&A, every project, and all project updates.

You can find out how many **reads** your research items 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 be able to see who's recently read your work and to connect with peers who are interested in your research.

You'll only be able to see who has read your work if they have their profile activity set to be publicly visible.

## 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.

To show how engaged viewers are with your research, you will also be able to see the **full-text reads** metric for your own publications. For publications, a '**full-text read**' is counted each time someone views or downloads the full-text. The **full-text reads** metric shows how many of your reads come from full-text views or downloads.

For questions and projects, a '**read**' is counted each time someone views the question or project page. A '**read**' of a project update or an answer in Q&A is only counted if someone looks at that particular project update or answer.

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 co-authors access your own publication, when you view your own question, answer, 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.

## How can I see who my readers are?

To see the identities of your readers, you first need to enable your [reader visibility settings](#). Once enabled, you'll only be able to see the profiles of your readers who also have these settings enabled. To see them:

1. Log in to your account <https://www.researchgate.net/login>
2. Visit the **Stats** tab on your profile and click on the **Reads** tab
3. If you have more than two readers, then under **People who read your publications** click on **View more researchers**.

## How can I see my readers by publication?

1. Log in to your account <https://www.researchgate.net/login>
2. Visit the **Stats** tab on your profile and click on the **Reads** tab.
3. Under **Reader demographics for the last 8 weeks** click on **View individual publication stats**.

Alternatively, you can go to your individual publication pages directly, click on **Stats**, and scroll down to see your readers (if applicable).

## How can I see my reader demographics?

1. Log in to your account <https://www.researchgate.net/login>
2. Visit the **Stats** tab on your profile and click on the **Reads** tab
3. Under **Reader demographics for the last 8 weeks** click on **View all demographics**.

## What are my read demographics based on?

Your read demographics provide a demographic breakdown of the reads your work has received over the past 8 weeks (when such information is available).

**Reads by country and institution** are based on institutional affiliations your readers have listed on their ResearchGate profiles. These affiliations are then matched to a specific location, for example, ResearchGate, Germany.

**Reads by discipline** are based on the disciplines your readers have added to their ResearchGate profiles. If a reader has two disciplines, they might be counted twice. For example, if one of your readers has Software Engineering and Computer Architecture listed as disciplines on their profile, you might receive one read for Software Engineering and one read for Computer Architecture.

Data relating to your **reads by seniority level** comes from information your readers have added to their ResearchGate profiles (if they have added such information). In some cases, this data might also be based on inferences we've made about your readers' seniority levels based on other data from their profiles, such as their position, degree, and years since first publication. This additional data helps us make a reasonable guess about what their seniority level might be.

## Why have my stats decreased?

There are a few possible reasons why your reads statistics may have decreased. The reads counter on your **Profile Overview** is based on your activity and on the research items in your **Research** tab. If a research item is removed from your **Research** tab, deleted from ResearchGate, or merged with a duplicate item, the item's reads will also be removed.

Reads may also decrease when a full-text file is removed from a publication page. Reads and full-text reads that come from full-text views or downloads are linked to the specific full-text file that was viewed. If a full-text file is removed from a publication page, the associated reads and full-text reads will also be removed.

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, answer, figure, 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.