

## NET-BASED DISSEMINATION OF e-RESEARCH RESULTS 185

worth saying and your research efforts will make a contribution (however major or minor) to improving education and opportunities for learning. There are also more mundane and practical reasons for disseminating the results of your e-research work. The Literati Club ([www.literaticlub.co.uk](http://www.literaticlub.co.uk)), a support site for authors sponsored by M.C. University Press, provides a listing of four compelling reasons to publish.

### Because I Have To

Being a professor (or undertaking any of the roles associated in the long apprenticeship trail from graduate student through assistant and associate professor) means that one makes open declaration of, as of one's knowledge, belief, action." Thus, you are asked, as a member of the research community, to publicly declare what you know and what your research has revealed. This declaration is a form of accountability in which you show that the time and effort spent on your study is justifiable and worthy of your personal as well as societal support.

Disseminating your materials also repays your debt to those whose ideas and efforts have assisted the work. The research process that you are now completing has been aided by many other professors who have publicly given their insights into related problems, methodologies, and solutions. Publishing also helps repay these participants who have given their time and insights to you throughout the research process. It is now your turn to repay this social debt and add to the accumulated public knowledge and wisdom. This is not only a great responsibility, but it is also a great honor. The dissemination process, like all components of the e-research cycle, is marked by hard work and attention to detail. However, it is also nearest to the pay-off stage and thus can be the most rewarding component of the e-research process.

### Because I Want to Get Ahead

Public dissemination of results often results in a flurry of contacts and connections with knowledge and who knows when to communicate these results provides a focus to which additional opportunities gravitate. These may include offers to collaborate on future work, invitations to speak at conferences or other gatherings, invitations to travel and visit with other researchers, requests for advice or offers of further research or related employment. In academic circles, publishing, especially in peer-reviewed journal articles and books, is one of the few quantifiable contributions to scholarly life and thus the count of publications often takes inordinate importance in promotion, tenure, and salary decisions. Graduate students who have the beginnings of a publishing record on their resumes are inevitably more sought after than those who can show competence only through successful completion of courses. There are a variety of personal and institutional ego-related reasons for disseminating as well. In sum there are many compelling reasons why dissemination of results is a very reliable indicator of future success.