Professional Trends in Communication Scholarship

ComAnalytics Reveals US PhD Program Relative Publication Frequency in Core Journal Literature
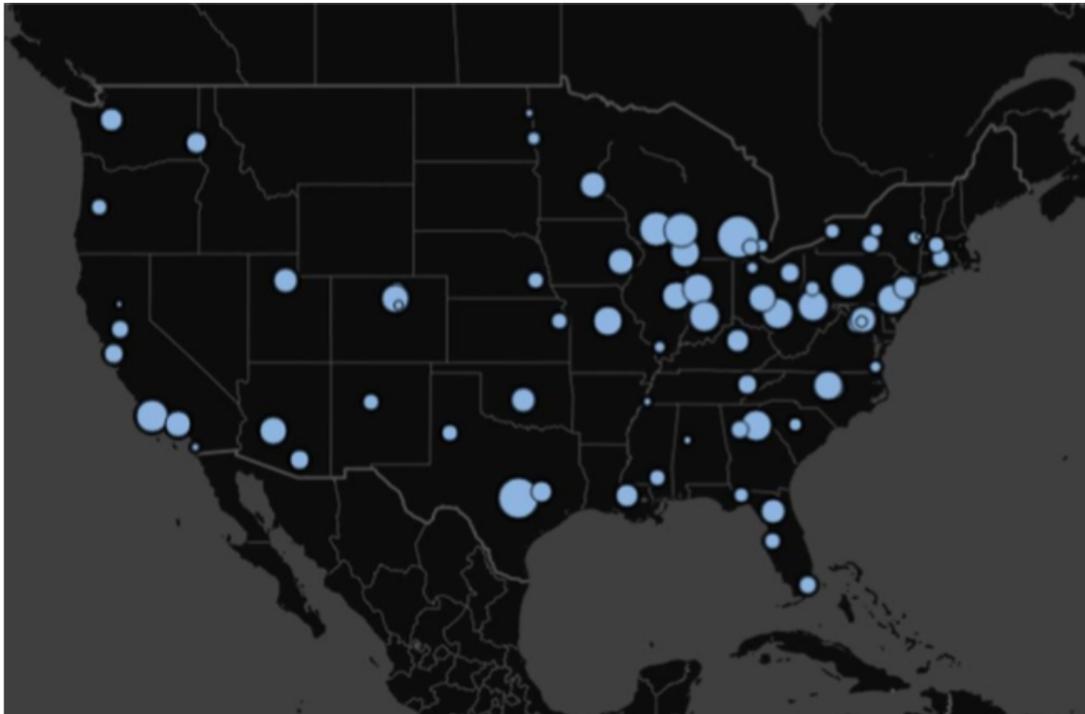
The CIOS's ComAnalytics system leverages data from the ComAbstracts publications database to track faculty publication in a majority of the field's mainline periodical literature for virtually all full time faculty currently working in North American university communication departments. The size of the circles reflects the relative contribution to this literature of each of the field's PhD-granting programs.

Stress and Burnout in Academia

Interpersonal engagement and availability to students…are shown to increase the likelihood of burnout…

Academic life is a constant proving ground that over time can spiral into stress and burnout — a growing topic of research. While there are numerous studies on workplace burnout, research on academic burnout is relatively sparse, despite the pressures unique to it. Following up on a 1999 study by the US Department of Education that found the average workweek for full-time faculty was 55 hours, a Boise State University survey 15 years later (2014, The Blue Review) by John Ziker reported an average of 61 hours, including 10 weekend hours – 50% more than the typical 40-hour work week. *Inside Higher Ed*'s June 10, 2010 issue reported on a dissertation study by Janie Lynn Crosmer (2008) of 411

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full-time US university professors. Her study using the Maslach Burn-out Inventory-Educators Survey analyzed differences in burnout according to factors, including age, gender, ethnicity, marital status, tenure status, type of institution and academic discipline. Significant differences in burnout scores using MANOVA tests were shown for age, gender and tenure status.

Types of stress — depression, exhaustion, cynicism, job dissatisfaction, depersonalization — and degree of burnout, indicated by diminished teaching performance and higher job turnover, show significant correlations with gender, tenure status and number of years teaching. A

2015 study by Frisby et al., surveyed 113 instructors to determine how students' instructional dissent affects teachers' stress. Positive correlations were shown between candid negative student evaluations and emotional exhaustion; negative correlations were shown between vengeful student evaluations and job satisfaction (Communication Education. 64 (1), 65-82).

Interpersonal engagement and availability to students -- qualities

that make one well-suited to teaching –– are shown to increase the likelihood of burnout due to more frequent student contact. Either because of less student contact or more effective coping strategies, academics with more experience and higher rank are shown not to be as affected.

Showing the degree to which burnout and depression plague graduate students and faculty, a study by Sean Fowler (2015) peers through the lens of Lacanian discourse to unearth the unconscious aspects and complexities of institutional expectations that lead to periodic and sometimes permanent utter exhaustion (Empedocles: European Journal for the Philosophy of Communication. 6 (2), 155-167).

Power Searching in ComAbstracts

The ComAbstracts database has increased in size many times over since its launch in the 1990s. Then, a majority of the field's publications appeared in a set of some 25 journals. ComAbstracts now tracks more than 150 journals, as well as books in communication, and the number of records in the database has grown to nearly 90,000. As a database gets larger and more diverse, it becomes increasingly difficult to perform satisfactory retrieval unless records are pre-classified using terms from a closed dictionary of metadata. This is a core feature of ComAbstracts.

Since it's inception, each ComAbstracts record has been marked up by staff with one or more classification terms from a set of 105 "metaterms" (the CIOS's closed dictionary). This data is distinct from the typical, author-supplied keywords included at the beginning of published journal articles. Author-supplied keywords are of almost no value for database retrieval because authors express the same idea with broadly variable terms and different authors have different ideas about what types of terms should be included as keywords. Mark up from a closed dictionary is essential. Most ComAbstracts

metaterms are topical (e.g., health, nonverbal, sports, persuasion, organizational, etc.) but others are geographical.

Metaterms permit users to search in powerful ways. For example, someone interested in articles about the rhetoric of political leaders in Europe can search the meta-terms for PRESIDENTIAL FIGURES and EUROPE and RHETORIC. The geographical terms are regionalized into the following areas: EUROPE, SOVIET UNION, ASIA, INDIAN SUBCONTINENT, EASTERN EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA, SCANDINAVIA, NORTH AMERICA, SOUTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA,

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ASIA, PACIFIC RIM, and CARIBBEAN. Whenever one of these geographic terms is added to a record's metaterm set, any specific countries mentioned in the article are coded into the article's keyword field. So an article coded EUROPE in the metaterms, might have FRANCE or GERMANY or SPAIN, etc. in the keywords field. This makes it possible to pinpoint searches for articles addressing communication phenomena in particular places, or to compare research outcomes and perspectives in different areas of the world.

Those who want to take advantage of ComAbstracts' powerful metaterm search capability should be sure to familiarize themselves with the CIOS's set of metaterms. One good way to do so is through the ComUpdate interface to ComAbstracts, which is linked off the CIOS's homepage (**http://www.cios.org**).

CommCrossword

ACROSS

9. "fad" in a lab-coat
10. qualifying _____
11. between chairs and provosts
12. results from flunking out
13. geeky data analysis software (Abbr.)
15. change _____
17. angle for conceptual focus
18. useful for sign language
22. popular management technique (Abbr.)
23. what do people do with media?
25. early conversational artificial intelligence program
26. trial balloon for a research project
27. texting technology (Abbr.)
28. frequent title for tv news
31. one of the primary emotions
34. Lucas' galactic adventure
38. not nominal, not interval, not ratio
40. brain camera
41. pointing device
42. primitive symbol users, maybe
44. bird communications
45. mode of communication threatened by digital media (Abbr.)
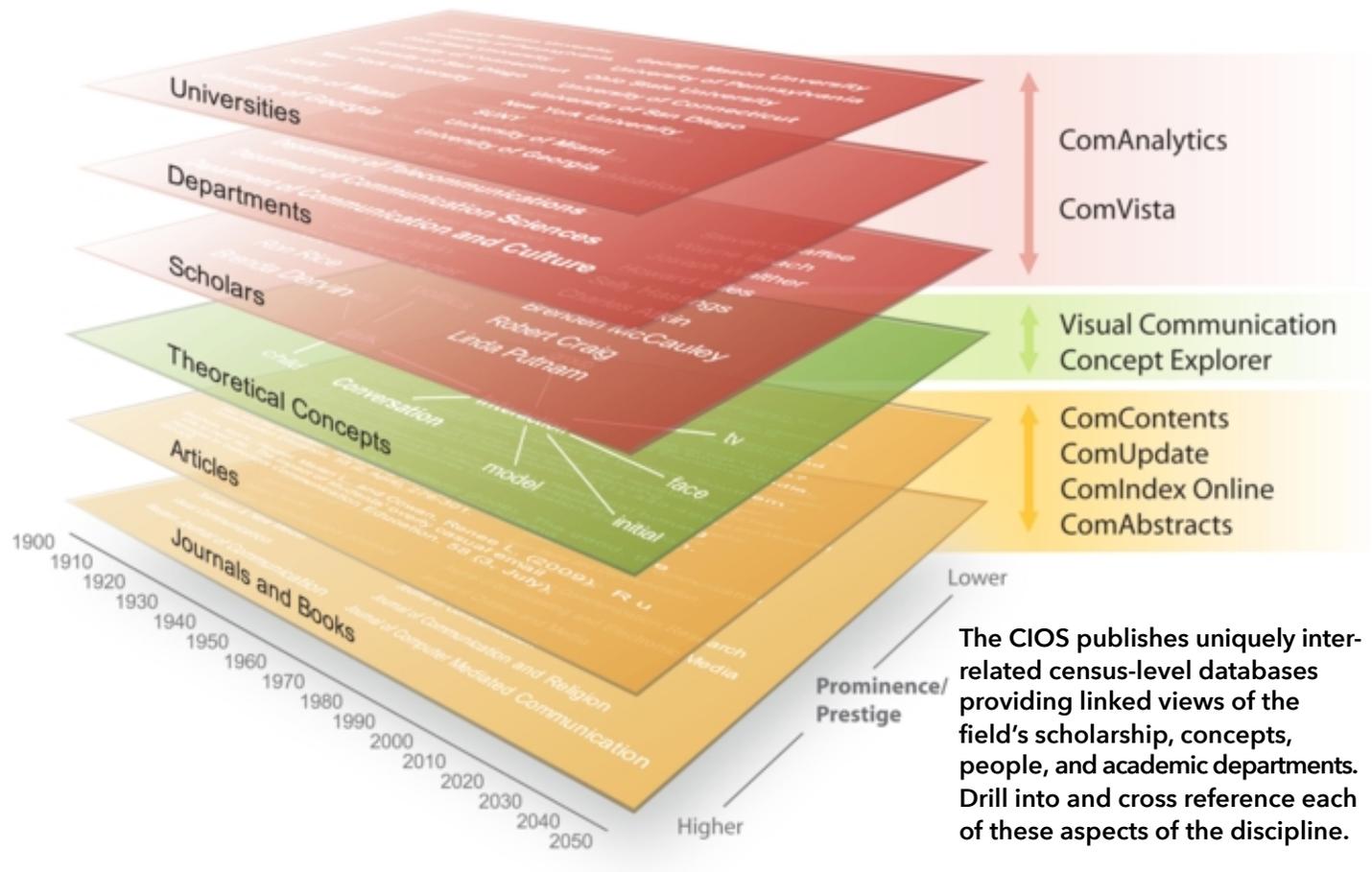46. dimension-finding analysis procedure
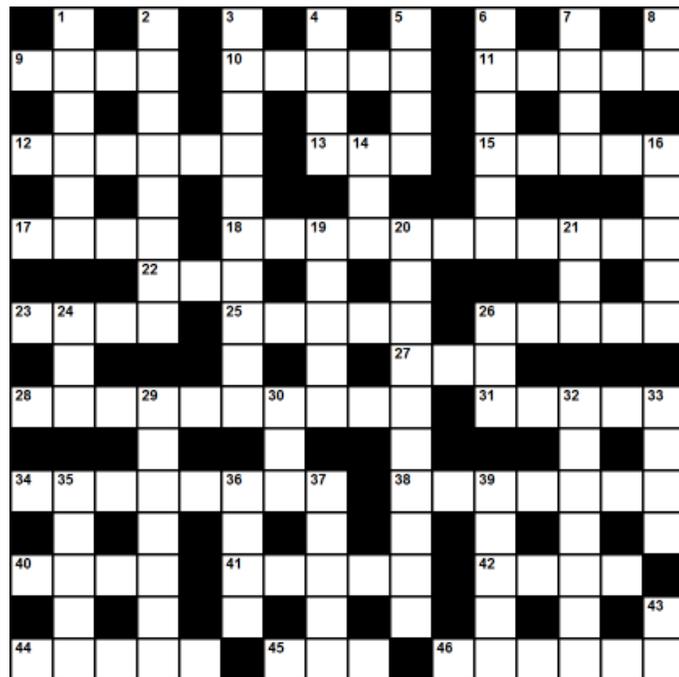
DOWN

1. author of the Chinese Room thought experiment
2. conversational moves, asking for something
3. attitude to cultivate for a faculty meeting
4. covering _____
5. requests info
6. subject of Plato's theory of forms
7. friend down under
8. regional comm journal (Abbr.)
14. almost out the door (Abbr.)
16. two-group comparison statistic
19. channel disruptor
20. social movement from the bottom up
21. web address
24. express in words
26. messages in the general interest (Abbr)
29. skillful use of it on CV could get you the interview
30. highly trusted source of its kind, all things considered
32. headlines are its business
33. important group concept
35. how fast was that speech?
36. visual _____
37. one of the primary senses
39. -turgy
43. highly ranked eclectic journal (Abbr.)

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