



**SCHÖN'S LEGACY:
EXAMINING CONTEMPORARY CITATION
PRACTICES IN DRS PUBLICATIONS**

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CONTEXT



EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF DESIGN (EAD) 2015

Interested in Schön's work

Observed lots of presentations referencing Schön

Talked about the ways Schön's work might be misused / misinterpreted

How and why do people cite Schön? What do the citations do?

TAKEAWAYS

CREDIT + SUPPORTING CITATIONS

We found these to be the two most common citation functions in our corpus.

VALUE

Understanding citation practices is interesting and important to the field.

UNCRITICAL USE

It would seem as though contemporary DRS publications cite Schön uncritically.

DONALD SCHÖN



HIGHLY CITED

Bibliometric analysis of 15 years of *Design Studies* (Chai & Xiao, 2012)



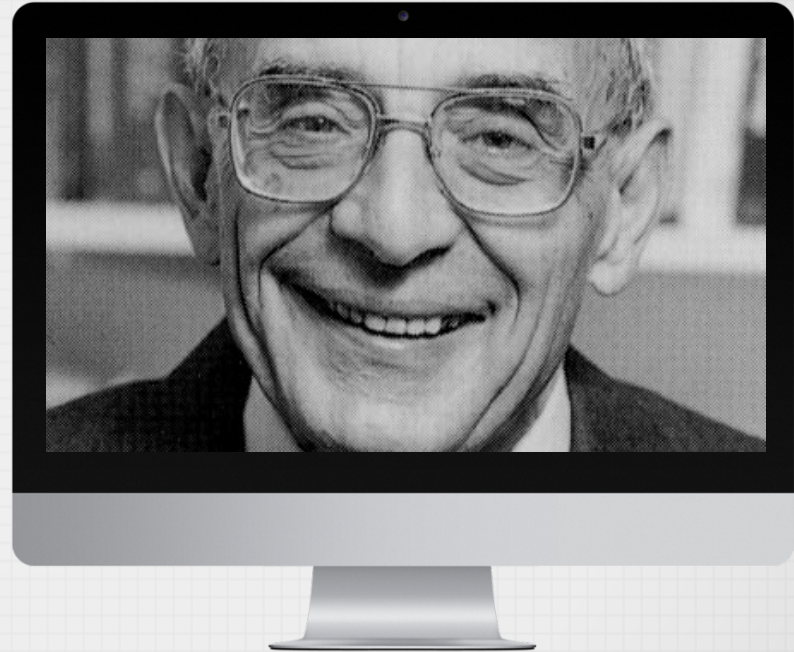
THE REFLECTIVE PRACTITIONER

Called a “landmark” in the field (Galle, 2011)



UNDERSTANDING HOW AND WHY

We know he is highly cited but we don't know how and why he is (highly) cited.



RESEARCH DESIGN

DRS UMEA AND BANGKOK
ALMOST 300 PAPERS IN TOTAL

01. IDIOGRAPHIC STUDY

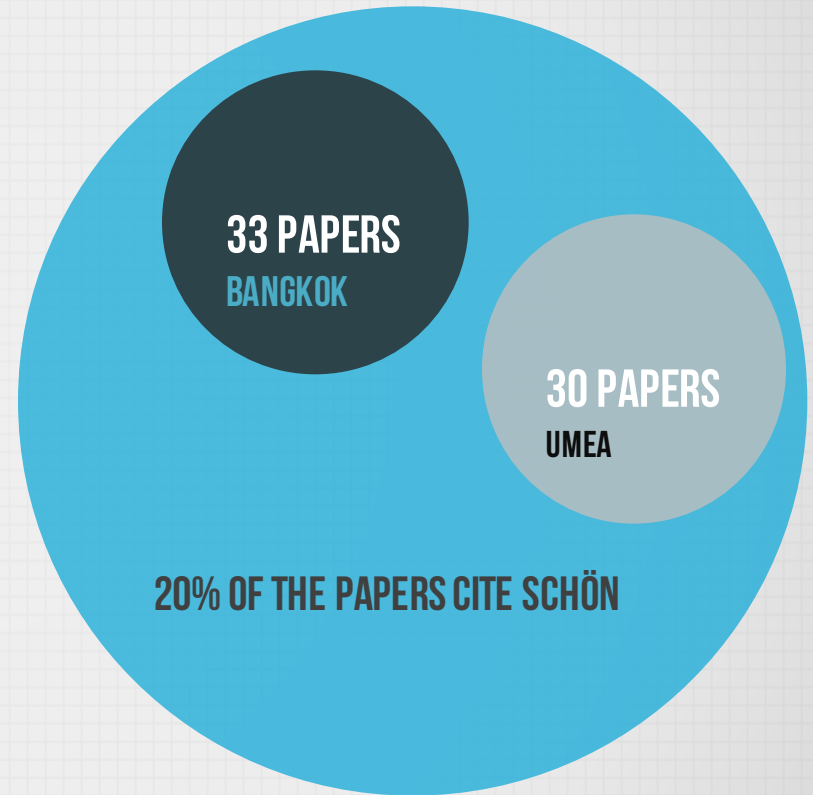
Contemporary citation practices from the two most recent DRS conferences (Umea + Bangkok)

02. HUNDREDS OF CITATIONS

63 papers include 194 citations to Schön and his work

03. SCHÖN'S PUBLICATIONS

Our corpus references 14 of Schön's publications.



SUMMARY OF ANALYTIC APPROACH

We adopted an *a priori* coding scheme from Harwood (2009) describing 11 citation functions

We coded 194 citations from 63 papers in atlas.ti

SOME QUALIFICATIONS

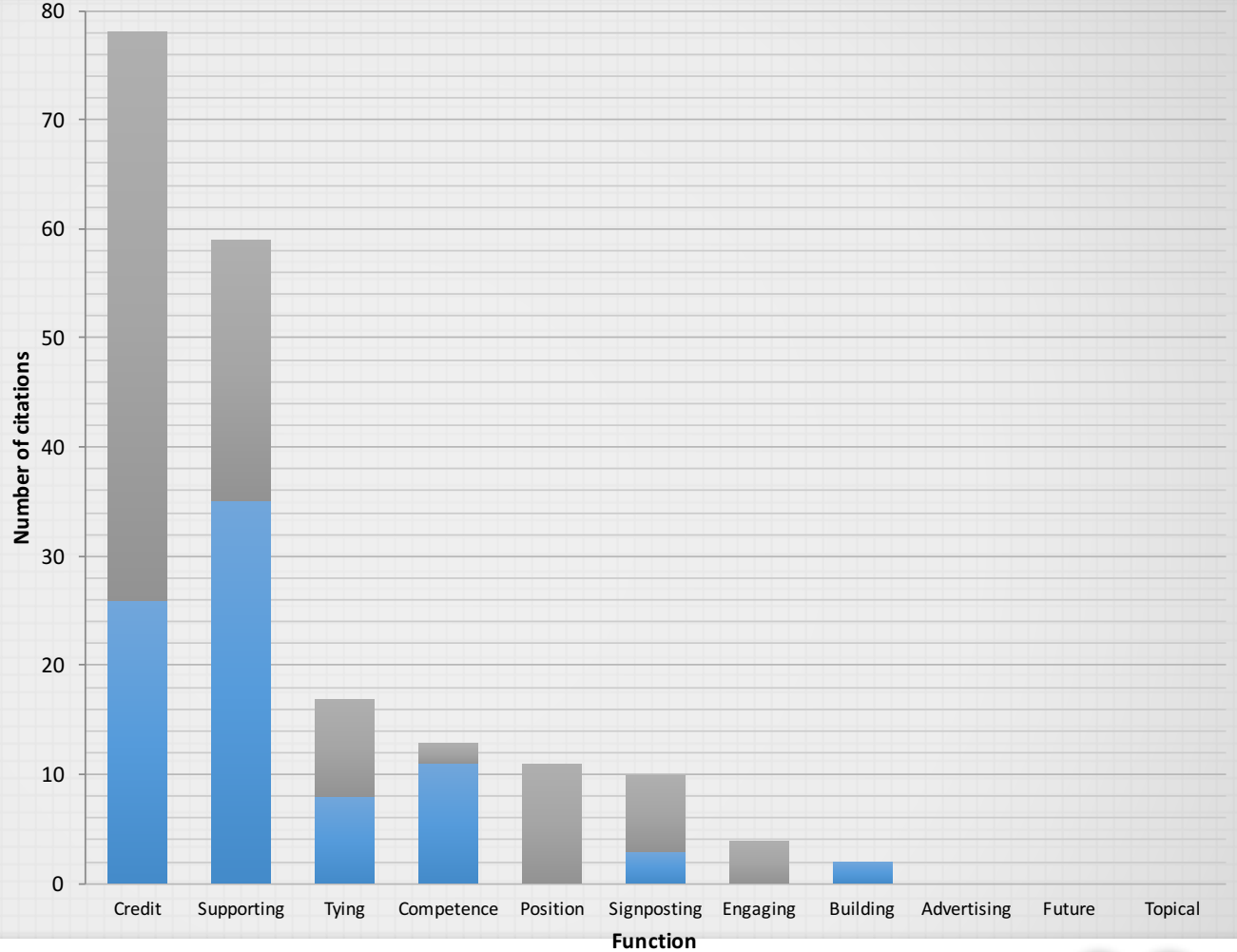
WE DID NOT INVOLVE THE AUTHORS OF THE PAPERS

WE ONLY APPLIED ONE FUNCTION PER CITATION (A DEPARTURE FROM HARDWOOD)

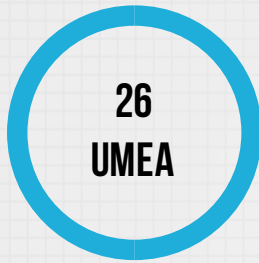
CITATION FUNCTION COULD BE A LATENT PROJECT VARIABLE

RESULTS

■ Bangkok
■ Umea



CREDIT AND SUPPORTING



CREDIT

Crediting citations acknowledge a debt to other scholars for ideas or methods and do not challenge or extend ideas.

CREDIT AND SUPPORTING

59 SUPPORTING
CITATION

24
BANGKOK

35
UMEA

SUPPORTING

Supporting citations help justify research topics, methods or methodologies, and/or other claims

INTUITIVE RESONANCE

It may be the case that authors assume a reader will understand source material or concepts without additional explanation or discussion.

TYING

17 CITATIONS

09 BANGKOK
08 UMEA

Tying citations align authors with other sources' methods/methodology, schools of thought and disciplinary traditions, or debates on specific issues.



COMPETENCE

13 CITATIONS

02 BANGKOK
11 UMEA

Competence citations help underscore writers' expertise by displaying knowledge of their field and their ability to conduct research.



POSITION

11 CITATIONS

11 BANGKOK
00 UMEA

Position citations identify representatives and exemplars of different viewpoints, explicate researchers' standpoints in detail, and trace thinking over time.



SIGNPOSTING

10 CITATIONS

07 BANGKOK
03 UMEA

Signposting citations help or interest less informed readers, keep the argument on track, or to save space.



A NOTE ON EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

What do authors understand Schön's key concepts to mean?

Meaning is flexible. Clarity is important.

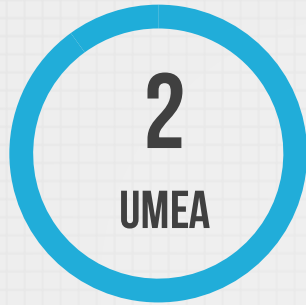
“[F]ine-grained references allow the reader to examine, question, challenge, and learn from cited sources”

(Friedman, 2015, p. 21)

ENGAGING AND BUILDING



ENGAGING



BUILDING

Authors either *engage* in critical dialogue with their sources or use source material as foundations to build on or develop further

DRS publications tend to manifest uncritical use of Schön's work

TAKEAWAYS RECAP



CREDIT + SUPPORTING CITATIONS

We found these to be the two most common citation functions in our corpus.



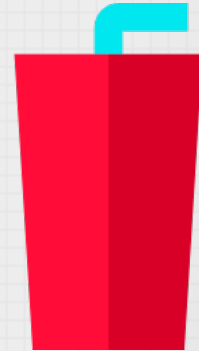
UNCRITICAL USE

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VALUE

Understanding citation practices is interesting and important to the field.



INTEGRITY OF KNOWLEDGE

DEGREE TO WHICH SCHOLARSHIP IS AN ACCURATE DEPICTION OF THE INTELLECTUAL GROWTH OF A FIELD.

“Donald Schön discusses the notion of a conversation between designer [sic] and their sketch (Schön 1983). Goldschmidt (above) calls this ‘backtalk’”

(Sadokierski & Sweetapple, 2012, p. 1652)



VALUE FOR NOVICES

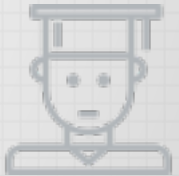
DRS PROCEEDING VALUE

DRS publications serve as models for research and writing

DETRIMENTAL FOR NOVICES

Recognizing Schön's name and contributions does not mean we understand

Good referencing provides substance for novice researchers



SOME FUTURE FOCUS



POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS

Why did we observe the patterns we did?
Would we find similar ones in journal articles or book chapters?



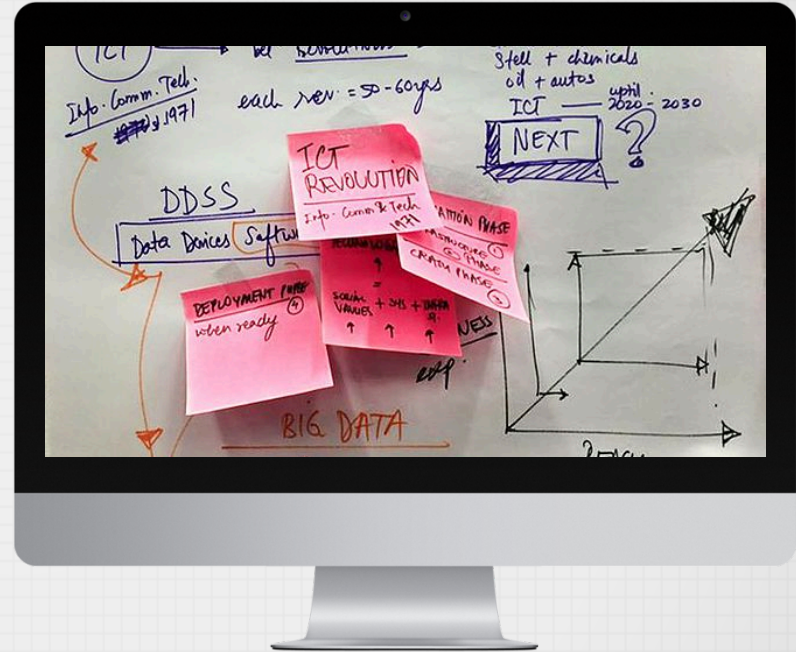
PARADIGMATIC SCHOLARSHIP

Do we treat Schön as “unproblematic” because his work is *intuitively resonant*?

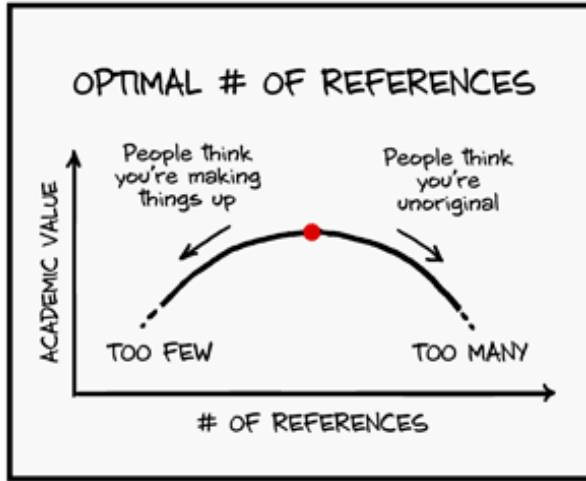


SCHÖN'S (AND OUR) LEGACY

Should we be thinking about how to turn existing citation practices into preferred ones?



THANKS! QUESTIONS?



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