



crystals

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ANNUAL PUBLICATION REPORT

2017



Academic Open Access Publishing
since 1996

Annual Report of *Crystals* in 2017

Crystals Editorial Office

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1. Highlights

Compared with 2016

- Submission number increased **96.5%**; Publication number increased **133.7%**; Rejection rate increased **9.5%**
- Publication views increased **3.8 times**
- Marketing activities enhanced significantly
- **25** new Editorial Board Members joined *Crystals* Team

2. Publications

2.1. Publication Statistics

The total number of manuscripts published in 2017 was **381**, a 133.7% increase compared to the previous year when 163 papers were published. The total submissions in 2017 was **611**, an increase of **96.5%** compared with 2016 (up to 31 December 2017) and the rejection rate in 2017 was **35.5%**. The rejection rate increased 10.5% on 2015 statistics (26.0%), which indicates a selective peer review process in 2017.

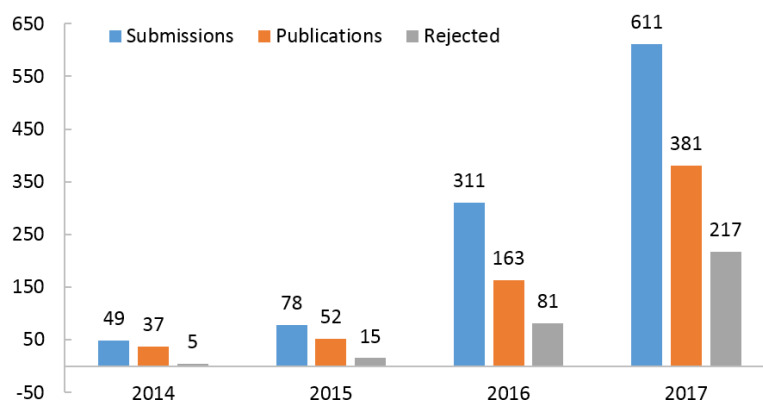


Figure 1. Submissions, publications and rejected papers from 2014 to 2017.

2.2. Type of Published Papers

As shown in Figure 2, 79% of all published papers in *Crystals* were original articles while 16% were reviews in 2017. Compared with 2016's data, the percentage of research articles in 2017 increased 7%. The percentage of reviews in 2017 decreased a little (3%). Original research articles are very important

to maintain the reputation of *Crystals*. We will endeavor to include more interesting original research articles. On the other hand, as is well known, reviews contribute more to paper citations, we also plan to publish more high quality review papers to continually increase citations in 2018.

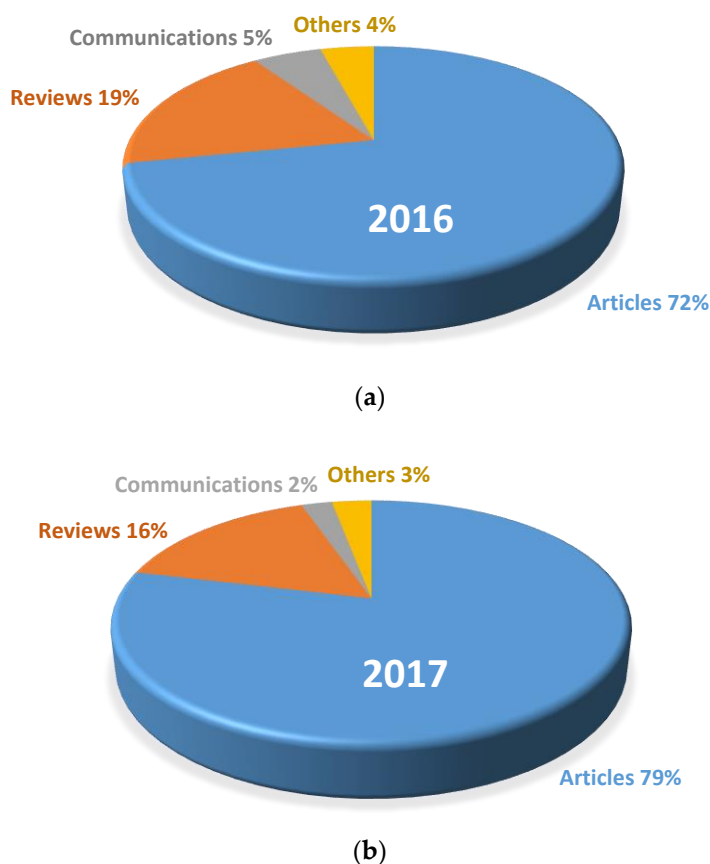


Figure 2. Percentage of the types of published papers in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

2.3. Author Distribution

In Figure 3 we can see that for 2017 publications, the authors mainly came from Asia (in particular China, Japan, Taiwan and Korea), Europe (mainly Germany, UK and Italy), America, and “Others”. The specific percentage were: Asia (49.7%), Europe (34.7%), America (14.0%), and Others (1.6%) respectively.

In 2017, the top 5 countries for published papers were: China (33%), USA (10%), Japan (6%), Russia (8%), Germany (4%) (shown in Figure 4a). The author distribution of published papers in 2017 for *Crystals* was basically unified with the author distribution of published papers in the WOS “Crystallography” category (shown in Figure 4b) published in 2017.

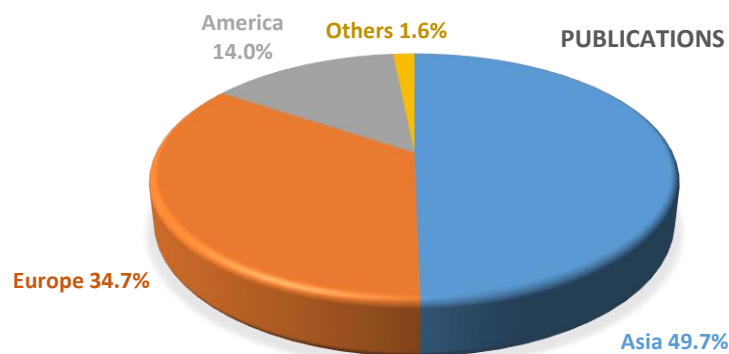


Figure 3. Author distribution for published papers in 2017.

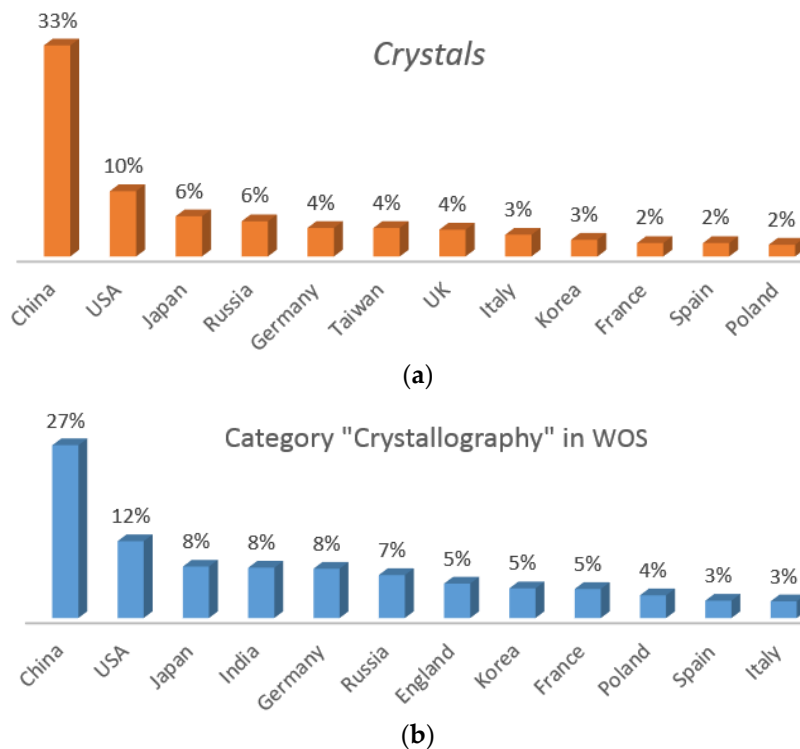


Figure 4. Author distribution for published papers 2017. (a): data for *Crystals*; (b): data for the category “Crystallography” in WOS. Note: this graph includes only the first 12 contributing countries.

2.4. Article Turn-Around Time

In 2017, the median article processing time (APT) was 41 days (from first submission to publication). Manuscripts were peer-reviewed and a first decision (TFD) provided to authors approximately 20 days after submission; acceptance to publication (TAP) was undertaken in 6 days. The median APT, TFP and TAP had been further reduced compared to 2016: 51 days, 23 days, and 7.5 days.

The *Crystals* editorial team is constantly striving to provide a good service to authors and this includes reducing the processing times as much as possible.

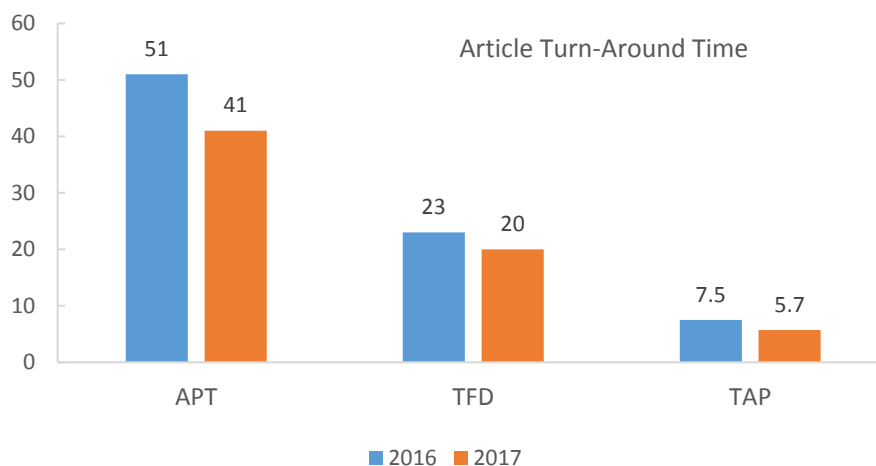


Figure 5. Article Turn-Around Time for published papers in 2016 and 2017. APT: Median Article Processing Time; TFD: Submission to First Decision Time; TAP: Acceptance to Publication Time.

3. Readership and Bibliometrics

3.1. Abstract Views

Figure 6 shows the total *Crystals* paper abstract views in the past five years. The number in 2017 significantly increased to 410,287, which was 2.6 and 3.8 times more than that of 2015 and 2016, respectively. On the one hand, it might be a result of the publications increasing; on the other hand, it illustrates that the visibility of the journal improved in 2017.

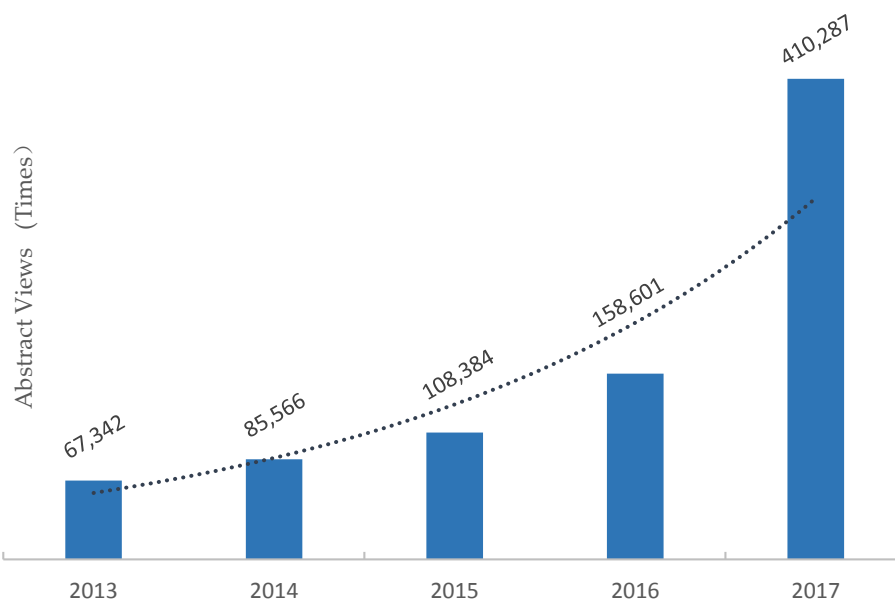


Figure 6. Total *Crystals* paper abstract views in the past five years (2013–2017).

3.2. Region Distribution of the Readers

Figure 7 shows the country/region distribution percentage of *Crystals* full paper downloads in 2016 and 2017. We can see that most of the papers published in 2017 (Figure 7b) were downloaded mainly by USA (30%), China (19%) and Germany (7%), compared to the data of 2016 (Figure 7a), USA (12%), China (11%) and India (9%). Downloads significantly increased in USA and China, which indicates increased visibility in these countries in 2017.

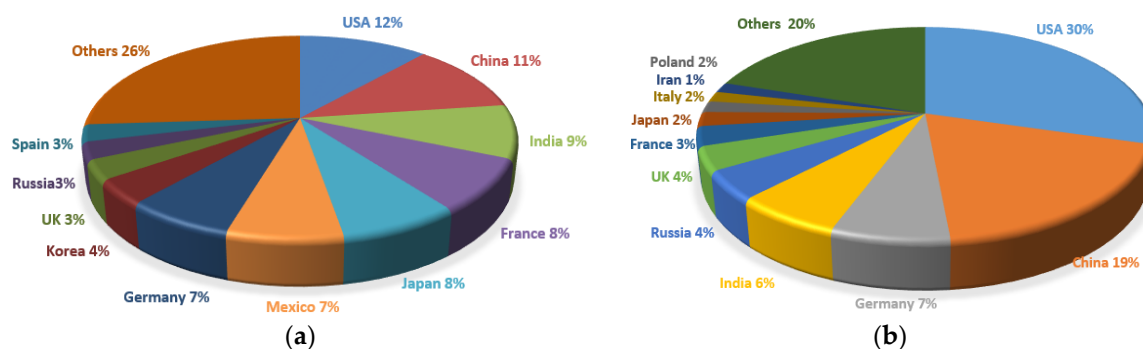


Figure 7. Country distribution percentage of the *Crystals* full paper downloads in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

3.3. Bibliometrics

Up to 31 December 2017, we published 801 papers, of which 185 articles have been cited 10 times or more. **Table 1** lists the top 5 cited papers in the last 2 years and **Table 2** lists the top 5 cited papers since 2011.

Table 1. Top 5 Cited Papers in Last 2 Years.

Publication Name	Type
RCH ₃ ···O Interactions in Biological Systems: Are They Trifurcated H-Bonds or Noncovalent Carbon Bonds?	Article
Epitaxial Graphene on SiC: A Review of Growth and Characterization	Review
Phononic Crystal Plate with Hollow Pillars Actively Controlled by Fluid Filling	Article
Silver and Copper Complexes with closo-Polyhedral Borane, Carborane and Metallacarborane Anions: Synthesis and X-ray Structure	Review
A Review on the Properties of Iron Aluminide Intermetallics	Review

Table 2. Top 5 Cited Papers since 2011.

Publication Name	Type
σ -Hole Interactions of Covalently-Bonded Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Arsenic: A Survey of Crystal Structures	Article
High Birefringence Liquid Crystals	Review
Metals on Graphene: Interactions, Growth Morphology, and Thermal Stability	Review
Indirect Exchange and Ruderman–Kittel–Kasuya–Yosida (RKKY) Interactions in Magnetically-Doped Graphene	Review
A Study on Graphene–Metal Contact	Review

4. Marketing and Promotion

4.1. Conference Collaboration

In order to increase the visibility and influence of *Crystals*, we teamed up with several international conferences and events throughout 2017. Table 3 shows the list of some conferences we collaborated with in 2017:

Table 3. List of some conferences we collaborated with in 2017.

Conference Name	Date	Place
The 5th German-Swiss Conference on Crystal Growth	8–10 Mar. 2017	Freiburg, Germany
BCA Spring Meeting 2017	10–13 Apr. 2017	Lancaster, UK
67th Annual Meeting of the American	26–30 May 2017	New Orleans, LA, USA
New Directions in Porous Crystalline Materials: Faraday Discussion	5–7 Jun. 2017	Edinburgh, UK
48th BACG Annual Conference	27–30 Jun. 2017	Manchester, UK
14th European Conference on Liquid Crystals	25–30 Jun. 2017	Moscow, Russia
2017 Gordon Research Conference on Liquid Crystals	18–23 Jun. 2017	Biddeford, ME, USA
European Polymer Federation Congress 2017	2–7 Jul. 2017	Lyon, France
24th Congress and General Assembly of the International Union of Crystallography	21–28 Aug. 2017	Hyderabad, India
24th International Workshop on Industrial Crystallization (BIWIC)	29–31 Aug. 2017	Dortmund, Germany
Annual Meeting of the Swiss Society for Crystallography	12 Sep. 2017	Geneva, Switzerland
CGCT-7-The 7th Asian Conference on Crystal Growth and Crystal Technology	15–19 Oct. 2017	Changchun, China
The 2nd European Conference on Metal-Organic Frameworks and Porous Polymers	29 Oct.–1 Nov. 2017	Delft, The Netherlands
Italian Crystal Growth 2017	20–21 Nov. 2017	Milano, Italy
16th International Conference on Ferroelectric Liquid Crystals	4–7 Dec. 2017	HongKong, China
2017 MRS (Materials Research Society) Fall Meeting and Exhibit-Advancing Materials	26 Nov.–1 Dec. 2017	Boston, MA, USA

We sponsored the "Young Crystallographer Session" at the "BCA Spring Meeting 2017", the Best Poster Award/Best Oral Award for the conferences "48th BACG Annual Conference" and "The 2nd European Conference on Metal-Organic Frameworks and Porous Polymers"; Besides, *Crystals* was the Sapphire Level Sponsor for the "67th Annual Meeting of the American" and also cooperated with the conference "The 5th German-Swiss Conference on Crystal Growth", "New Directions in Porous Crystalline Materials: Faraday Discussion", "24th International Workshop on Industrial Crystallization (BIWIC)" and "Italian Crystal Growth 2017", etc.

In particular, in 2017, we cooperated with several conferences related to "Liquid Crystals" to improve the exposure for Section "Liquid Crystals" in *Crystals*, they were: "14th European

Conference on Liquid Crystals”, “2017 Gordon Research Conference on Liquid Crystals” and “16th International Conference on Ferroelectric Liquid Crystals”.

We attended the conference IUCr meeting 2017 in India and advertised *Crystals* via a booth. During this conference, we enjoyed meeting some of our editors, reviewers, authors and the organizers there. We found that face to face communication is the best way for scholars to get to know us and also the most efficient way to solve their questions.

4.2. Travel Awards

With the goal of recognizing outstanding contributions to the field of crystallography by early-career investigators and assisting them in attending international conferences in 2017, we accepted nominations for two Junior Scientists Travel Awards 2017. The winners of which were announced in early 2017. The winners of the 2017 Crystals Travel Awards were: **Dr. Benjamin Frandsen** (University of California) and **Dr. Matthew Dunstan** (University of Cambridge).

We then announced a competition for the 2018 *Crystals* Travel Awards for postdocs and PhD students. We are still collecting applicants for this award; the winners will be announced at the end of March 2018. These prizes continue to attract a great number of applications which shows the growing interest and influence of *Crystals* for early career investigators. We are looking forward to reviewing the nominations for the 2018 prizes.

4.3. Best Paper Awards

In 2017, we organized Best Paper Awards to recognize outstanding papers published in our journal. Following review by the selection committee, the following top-voted research articles and review papers, in no particular order, won a “*Crystals* Best Paper Award” for 2017. We will organize the “2018 *Crystals* Best Paper Award” in June 2018.

Table 4. *Crystals* 2017 Best Paper Awards.

Publication Name	Type
Designs of Plasmonic Metamasks for Photopatterning Molecular Orientations in Liquid Crystals	Article
Structural and Spectral Properties of Deterministic Aperiodic Optical Structures	Article
3D DNA Crystals and Nanotechnology	Review
Nano-Objects and Ions in Liquid Crystals: Ion Trapping Effect and Related Phenomena	Review

4.4. Other Cooperations

Crystals sponsored the "Check CIF" programme by International Union of Crystallography(IUCr) together with IUCr, CCDC, ACS, Wiley, Elsevier and RSC. We can direct our authors, editors and reviewers to make use of the service. Please see details via the following link: <http://checkcif.iucr.org/>.

5. Editorial Board Members

25 new Editorial Board Members joined *Crystals* Team in 2017, they are:

Section: Biomolecular Crystals

Prof. Dr. Abel Moreno Prof. Dr. Jolanta Prywer Dr. José A. Gavira Prof. Dr. Xiao-Dong Su

Section: Crystal Engineering

Prof. Dr. Alberto Girlando Prof. Dr. Michel Ferriol Prof. Dr. Rui M. Almeida Dr. Hugo K. Christenson
 Prof. Dr. Ikai Lo Dr. Roberto Comparelli Prof. Dr. Yongsheng Han Dr. Yuri N. Palyanov
 Prof. Dr. Sinisa Dj. Mesarovic Prof. Dr. Koichi Kakimoto Dr. Venu Vangala Prof. Dr. Arkady Zhukov
 Dr. Wolfram Miller Prof. Dr. Peter Moeck Prof. Dr. Calvin Sun Prof. Dr. Chien-Jung Huang
 Dr. Mohamed Balli Dr. Stevin Snellius Pramana Prof. Dr. Edward R.T. Tiekink

Section: Interactions in Crystal Structures

Prof. Dr. Jiande Gu Prof. Dr. Dinadayalane Tandabany

Sincere thanks are given to all EBMs for their invaluable support and for actively taking part in the editorial process. We have a strong editorial board team and we aim to become the preferred

publication portal for the research community. It is only with your input that we can achieve this goal. We look forward to your continued valuable support of *Crystals* in 2018.

6. Conclusions and Outlook

2017 was a fruitful year for *Crystals*: we tried various promotional activities, attracted many more readers, reduced the turn-around time of our publications. We aim to be the fastest Open Access crystallography journal. In 2018, we will continue to maintain quality, improve visibility via more promotional methods, to provide the best service possible to authors and reviewers, build a good reputation, and enhance the *Crystals* brand. Table 5 lists the main aims for 2018:

Table 5. Main aims for 2018.

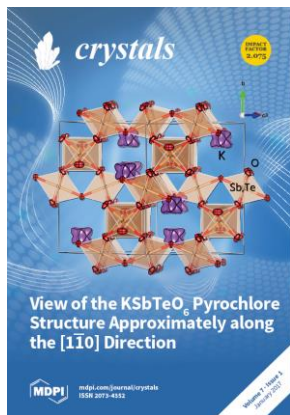
Types	Work Plans	Participants
Main Strategies	Do more marketing promotion at important conferences in the crystallography and materials fields	EBMs and GEs
	Maintain quality of published papers	EBMs and GEs
	Improve visibility for all the sections, especially the Sections“Liquid Crystals“ and “Biomolecular Crystals“	EBMs and GEs
	Organize our first E-Conference	EBMs
Special Issues	Scientifically select the topics and control quality for Special Issues	EBMs and GEs
	Do more promotional work and special issues advertising with the help of GEs	GEs
	Contribute to the Special Issue Book project	Editorial Office
Manuscripts	New layout format (Done)	Editorial Office
	Further reduce the paper turn-around time (peer review, copy-editing)	Editorial Office
	Publish more than 55 papers per issue	Editorial Office
Awards	Travel Awards 2018	Editorial Office, EBMs
	Best Paper Awards 2018	Editorial Office, EBMs
	Outstanding Reviewer Awards 2018	Editorial Office, EBMs
	Best Poster/ Oral Award (for conferences/workshops)	Editorial Office, EBMs and GEs

Note: EBMs: Editorial Board Members; GEs: Guest Editors.

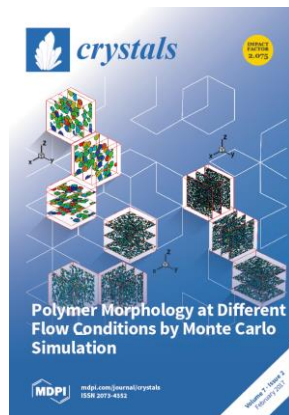
Acknowledgments

We very much appreciate the time and effort of all our Editorial Board Members and Guest Editors. You have provided us with very useful and professional suggestions in 2017. Many thanks to you all. Thanks also go to the in-house editors for their hard work: 4 section managing editors, 1 marketing specialist and 7 assistant editors. We do hope that all *Crystals'* team members can work together and witness new milestones in the coming year.

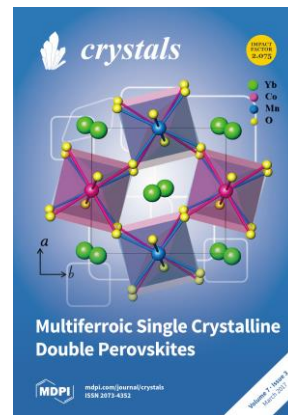
Appendix A: *Crystals* Cover page for Issues 1–12; Volume 7



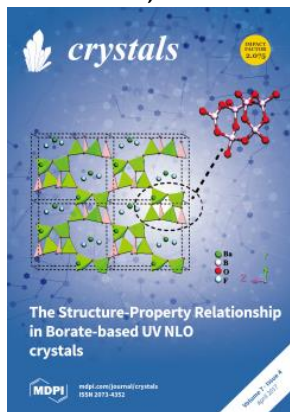
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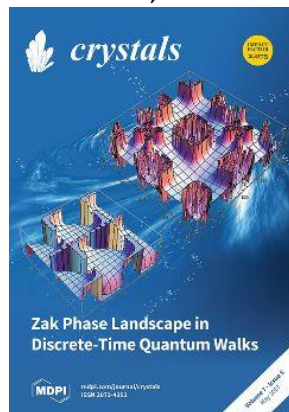
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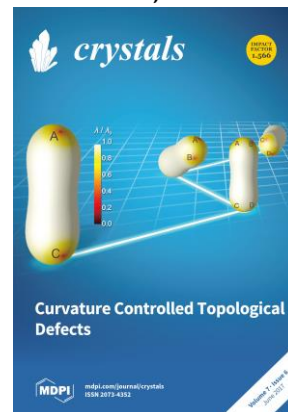
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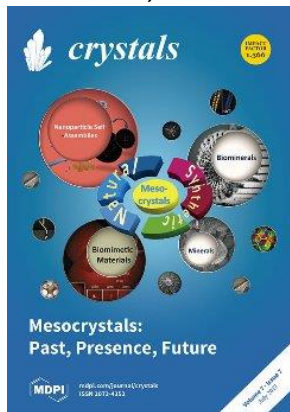
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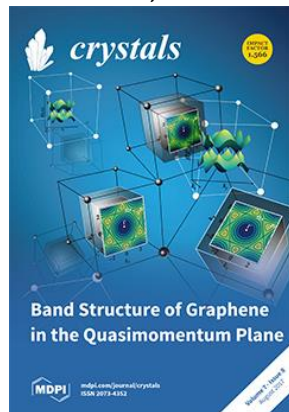
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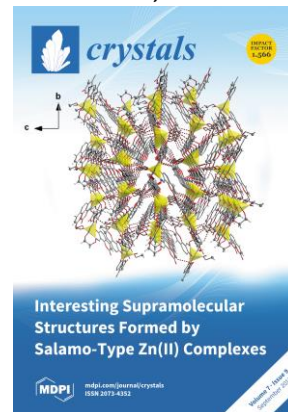
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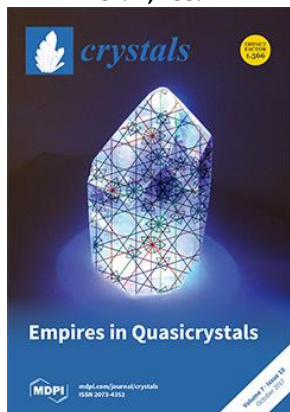
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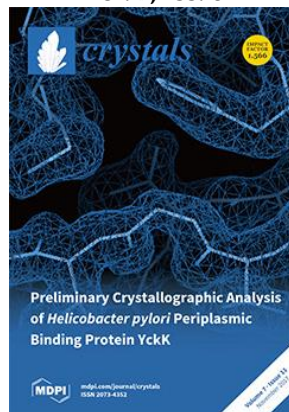
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