



*crystals*

IMPACT  
FACTOR  
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# ANNUAL PUBLICATION REPORT 2020



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# Annual Publication Report of *Crystals* in 2020

*Crystals* Editorial Office

January 2021

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## 1. Highlights

- JCR category rank increased to 10/26 (Q2) in “Crystallography”;
- Publications increase by 73.7%;
- Rapid publication: the article processing time (from submission to publication) decreased from 32 days in 2019 to 31 days in 2020;
- Significantly expansion of Editorial Board to 465 members in total;
- Newly established sections “Hybrid and Composite Crystalline Materials”, “Macromolecular Crystals”, “Industrial Crystallization”, “Organic Crystalline Materials”, and “Mineralogical Crystallography and Biomineralization”

## 2. Overview

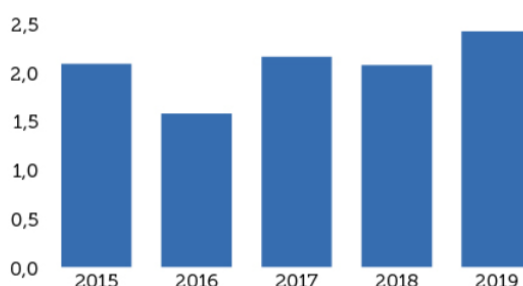
*Crystals* (ISSN 2073-4352) is a peer-reviewed open access journal, published monthly online by MDPI, that covers all aspects of crystalline material research, including liquid crystals and biomolecular crystals.

It was founded in 2011 and includes 11 volumes with 3175 articles published to date, and 364 articles have been cited 10 times or more (i-10 index).

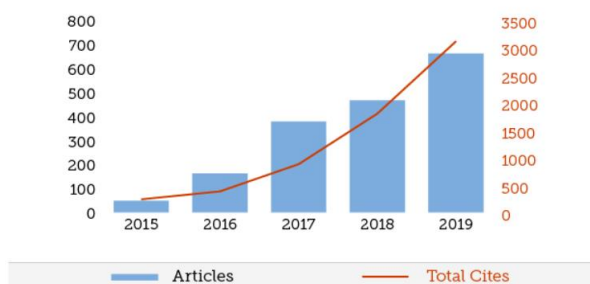
**Indexing:** *Crystals* is indexed by the Science Citation Index Expanded (Web of Science), MEDLINE (PubMed), Scopus (Elsevier), and other relevant databases.

**Impact Factor:** The updated Impact Factor for *Crystals* showed an increase to 2.404 in 2019. The 5-Year Impact Factor is 2.376.

**Impact Factor of *Crystals***



**Citations & Articles for *Crystals***

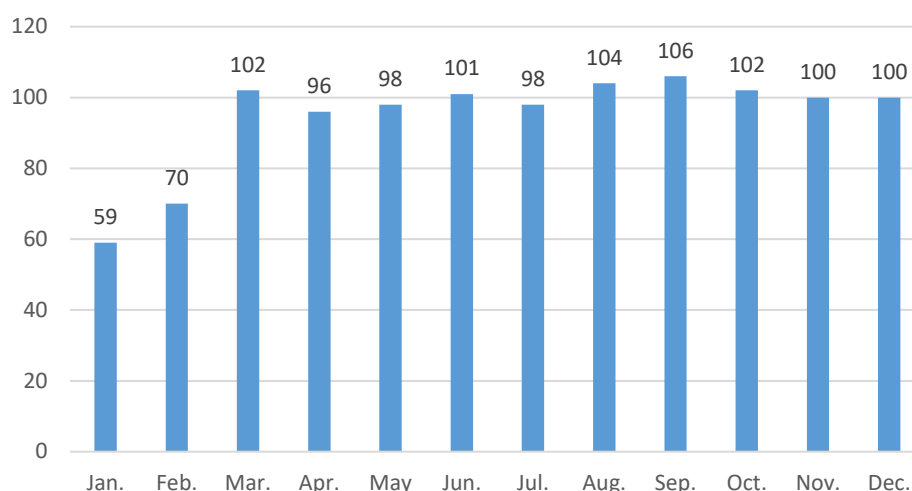


## 3. Journal Progress in 2020

### 3.1. Publications

A total of 1792 submissions were received this year, with an annual growth of 87%, and 1136 papers were published this year, with an annual growth 74%. The following chart shows monthly publications in *Crystals*.

Monthly Publication in 2020



### 3.2. Editorial Board

In 2020, 177 new Editorial Board Members joined *Crystals*, and the current number of Editorial Board Members is 465. Their active participation in promotion and editorial work has directly increased the visibility and reputation of *Crystals*. In 2021, we would like to invite more experts to join the Editorial Board, ensuring a suitable number of members depending on the current workload, and to contribute to the future development of the journal.

To better improve our ability to serve the academic community, we will shortly be conducting a survey, and the feedback of all Editorial Board Members will be highly appreciated. If you have any recommendations for new Editorial Board Members or other suggestions for the journal's development, please let us know via the survey questionnaire.

### 3.3. Reviewer Board and Topic Board

Peer review is an essential part of the publication process, ensuring that *Crystals* maintains its standards of high quality for its published papers. Reviewing is often an unseen and unrewarded task. We are striving to recognize the great efforts of reviewers. Since establishing the Reviewer Board in 2019, 390 reviewers have been willing to join us so far, and the number is increasing.

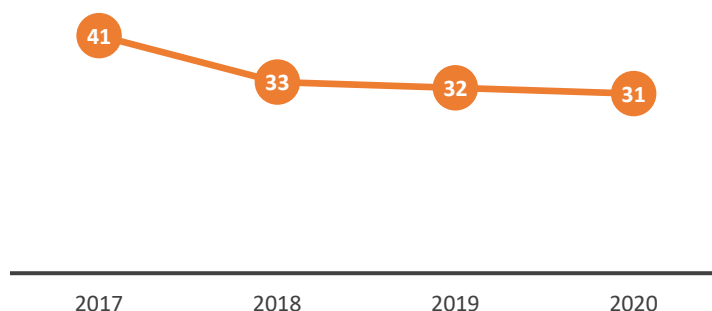
We launched a new role of Topic Editor for young scientists. We are inviting them to lead Special Issues and propose a detailed strategy and plan for these SI projects; promote the journal at conferences; provide support for various Special Issues on topics related to their expertise or give advice on some scientific cases, etc. We are pleased to provide some discounts for the papers invited or authored by them. If you happen to know any suitable candidates for this position, please do not hesitate to recommend them to us.

### 3.4. Editorial Process

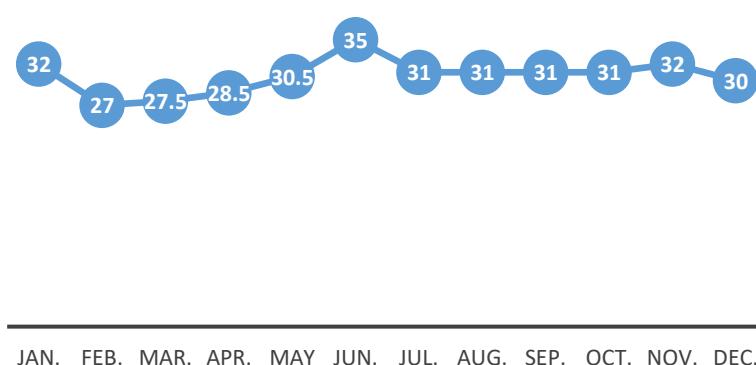
**Open Review:** *Crystals* now offers an open peer review option to help increase transparency about the review process and provide further information about the paper for interested readers. Authors may choose to publish the review reports and their responses along with the published paper (often referred to as open reports).

**Processing Time:** We aim to provide an efficient and high-quality publishing service to authors. A first decision was provided to authors approximately 13 days after submission, and acceptance to publication was undertaken in 3 days; the median processing time (from submission to publication online) was 31 days in 2020.

Median Processing Time in Last 4 Years (Days)



Monthly Median Processing Time in 2020 (Days)



The Editorial Office greatly appreciates all of your hard work and efforts to maintain high publishing standards and shorten the time to publication.

### 3.5. Journal Management

To refine the journal research scope and optimize journal management, we rearranged the journal sections as of 2020. At present, *Crystals* is organized into the following 9 sections:

Sections	Section Editor-in-Chief
Liquid Crystals	Prof. Dr. Charles Rosenblatt
Biomolecular Crystals	Prof. Dr. Abel Moreno
Crystal Engineering	Prof. Dr. Sławomir J. J. Grabowski
Industrial Crystallization	Prof. Dr. Heike Lorenz
Inorganic Crystalline Materials	Prof. Dr. Shujun Zhang
Organic Crystalline Materials	Prof. Dr. Neil Champness
Macromolecular Crystals	Prof. Dr. Jesús Sanmartín-Matalobos
Mineralogical Crystallography and Biomineralization	Prof. Dr. Wolfgang W. Schmahl
Hybrid and Composite Crystalline Materials	Prof. Dr. Leonid Kustov

### 3.6. Conference Collaboration

We cooperated with dozens of international conferences in 2020. We distributed journal flyers and organized special gifts for our Editorial Board Members as well as some promotional memorabilia for conference attendees. It is very important for us to have face-to-face conversations with scholars to find out what they care about and understand what we could do to provide a better service. Shown in the following table is a list of some conferences with which we collaborated in 2020.

Conference Name	Date	Country
Joint Polish–German Crystallographic Meeting 2020	2020-02-23	Poland

28th International Liquid Crystal Conference (ILCC2020)	2020-07-26	Portugal
Italian Crystal Growth 2020	2020-10-01	Italy
ICCC 2020 – 44th International Conference on Coordination Chemistry	2020-07-05	Italy
4th International Symposium on Halogen Bonding	2020-03-23	South Africa
7th International School of Crystallization	2020-05-24	Spain
2020 Biennial Congress of the “Association Française de Cristallographie” (AFC)	2020-06-30	France
Crystal growth in Germany (DKT 2020)	2020-03-11	Germany
British Crystallographic Association Spring Meeting 2020	2020-04-06	UK
XXIX Symposium of Spanish Specialized Group of Crystallography and Crystal Growth	2020-06-16	Spain
Scientific Meeting of the Specialized Inorganic Chemistry and Solid State Chemistry Groups	2020-06-21	Spain
“Check CIF” programme by International Union of Crystallography	2020-02-28	Germany
Advanced Methods in Macromolecular Crystallization IX	2020-05-16	Czech Republic
18 Russian Conference “Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry of Melted and Solid State Electrolytes”	2020-09-21	Russia
TIGeR Conference 2020 Frontiers in Isotope Geochemistry	2020-09-11	Australia
French Crystallography Association (AFC)	2020-10-21	France
PVSEC-30 & GPVC 2020	2020-11-08	Korea
Methods for Investigation of the Composition and Structure of Functional Materials	2020-09-01	Russia
11TH WORLD BIOMATERIALS CONGRESS	2020-12-11	UK

### 3.7. Travel Awards

To support early career investigators to attend international conferences in 2020, we launched two Travel Awards in 2020. The winners of the 2020 *Crystals* Travel Awards were **Dr. Daria Szewczyk**, a young Researcher at the Institute of Low Temperature and Structure Research PAS Wrocław, Poland, and **Ms. Laura Otter**, a Ph.D. student and Research Associate at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Macquarie University, in Sydney, Australia.

In 2021, we will continue the series of *Crystals* Travel Awards for postdocs and Ph.D. students. We will accept applications until 30 March 2021. The two winners will be announced by the end of April 2021. If you happen to know some eligible candidates who would benefit from this award, please do not hesitate to send them information about our award.

### 3.8. Other Cooperations

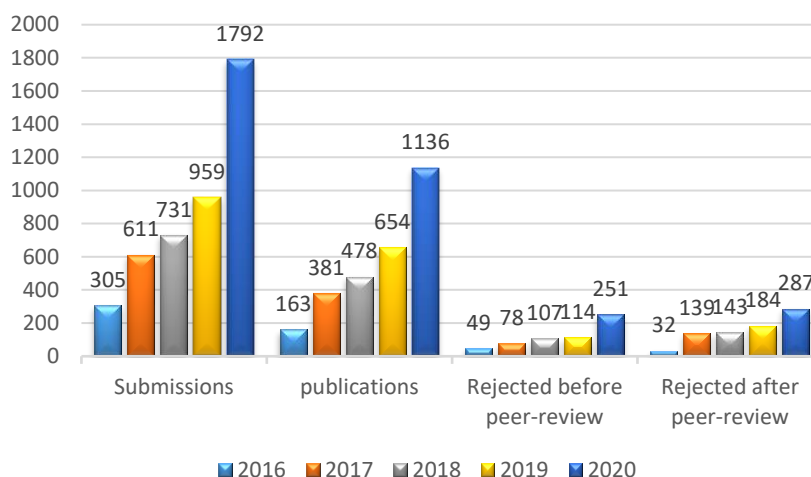
*Crystals* continued its collaboration with the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr) by sponsoring the “Check CIF” programme together with IUCr, CCDC, ACS, Wiley, Elsevier, and RSC. We can direct our authors, editors, and reviewers to make use of the service. Please see details via the following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

*Crystals* has sponsored the French Crystallography Association for two years, and the logo and banners for *Crystals* are posted on the website of all conferences organized by the French Crystallography Association. For more details, please visit the following link: <https://www.afc.asso.fr/english/partnership>.

## 4. Journal Statistics

### 4.1. Publication Trend

In 2020, both submissions and publications continued to increase, and were 1792 and 1136, respectively. The rejection rate remained stable at 24.67%. The following figure shows the trends of submissions, publications, and number of rejected papers over the past 5 years.

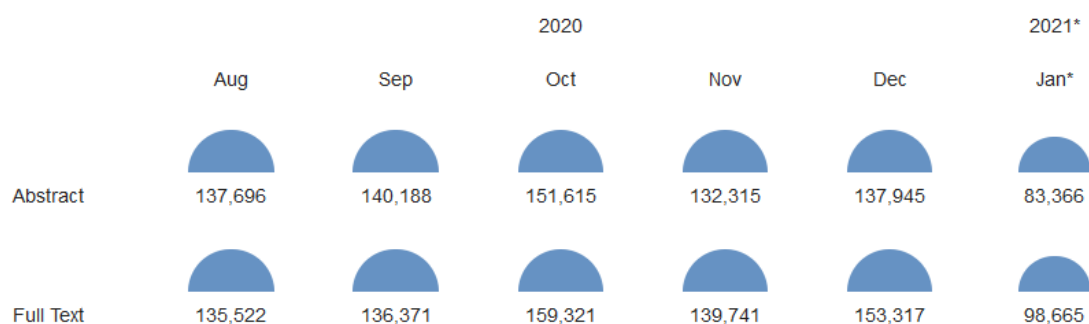


The journal will maintain growth while providing a professional and fast processing service to authors to ensure that knowledge is disseminated in a timely manner.

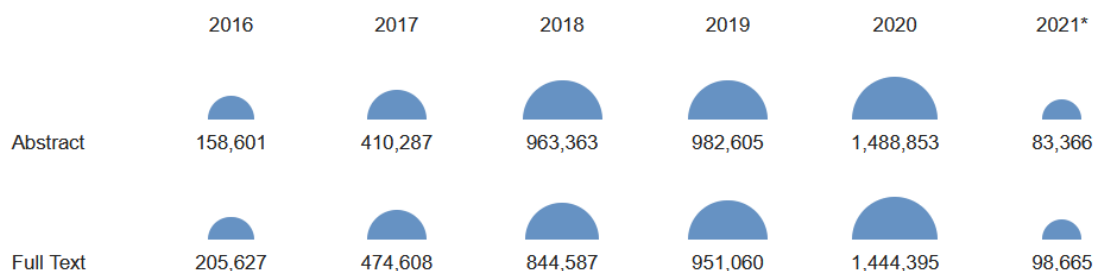
#### 4.2. Crystals Access Trend

As more papers were published, the visibility of *Crystals* is increasing, with the journal website receiving 9,423,793 full-text and abstract views—a 89% increase compared to 2019.

##### Full-Text and Abstract Views Past 6 Months Trend

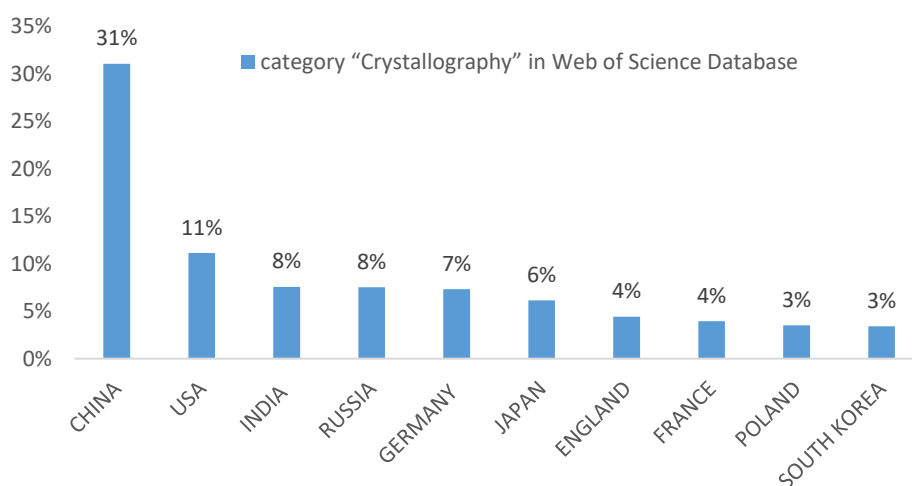
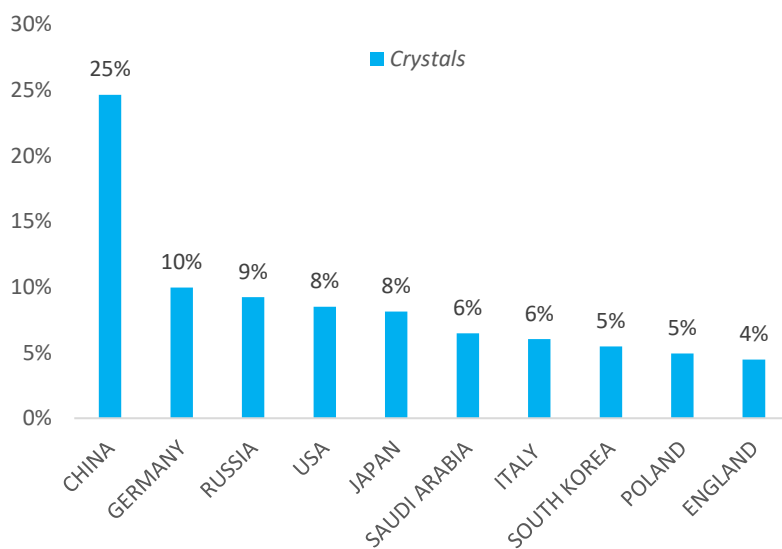


##### Full-Text and Abstract Views per Year Trend



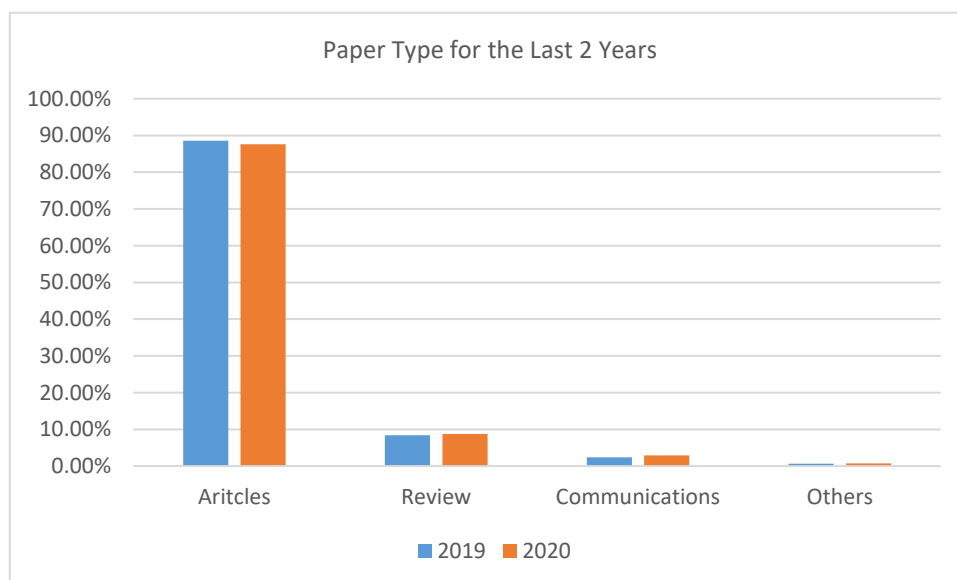
#### 4.3. Author Distribution

In the figure below, we can see that for 2020 publications, the authors mainly came from Asia, Europe, and the USA. The top five countries of authors that published papers were China (25%), Germany (10%), Russia (9%), the USA (8%), and Japan (8%). The distribution by country for authors of published papers in 2020 was basically the representative of the author distribution by country when considering the “Crystallography” category of the Web of Science database in 2020.



#### 5.4. Publication Types

Shown below are published papers by type in 2019 and 2020 (research articles still constituted the largest percentage for article type in *Crystals* in 2020).





### 5.5. Special Issue Reprint Books

Special Issue reprints are made available in online open access format and as physical books via print-on-demand. The reprint books will be listed in the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB), Google Books, and WorldCat, and are available through several distribution platforms (e.g., Amazon). Special Issue reprint books will also be more convenient and effective, facilitating promotion of publications by Guest Editors and the journal. In addition to the complimentary printed copies for Guest Editors, all Special Issue/Topical Collection contributors can purchase copies with a 20% discount.

Some of the Special Issue books published this year are listed below.

<p><b>Sonic and Photonic Crystals</b></p> <p><b>Lien-Wen Chen and Jia-Yi Yeh (Eds.)</b></p> <p>Pages: 294</p> <p>Published: July 2020</p> <p>(This book is a printed edition of the Special Issue <a href="#">Sonic and Photonic Crystals</a> that was published in <a href="#">Crystals</a>)</p>	
<p><b>Recent Progress in Lithium Niobate</b></p> <p><b>Robert A. Jackson and Zsuzsanna Szaller (Eds.)</b></p> <p>Pages: 122</p> <p>Published: October 2020</p> <p>This book is a printed edition of the Special Issue <a href="#">Recent Progress in Lithium Niobate</a> that was published in <a href="#">Crystals</a></p>	
<p><b>Mineralogical Crystallography</b></p> <p><b>Vladislav V. Gurzhiy (Ed.)</b></p> <p>Pages: 190</p> <p>Published: October 2020</p> <p>This book is a printed edition of the Special Issue <a href="#">Mineralogical Crystallography</a> that was published in <a href="#">Crystals</a></p>	

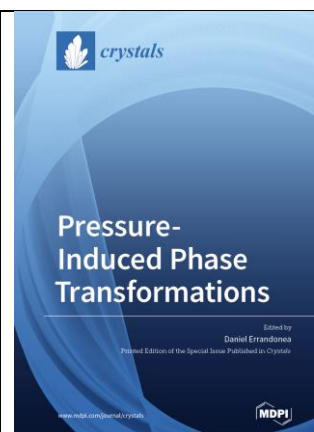
## Pressure-Induced Phase Transformations

Daniel Errandonea (Ed.)

Pages: 224

Published: September 2020

(This book is a printed edition of the Special Issue [Pressure-Induced Phase Transformations](#) that was published in [Crystals](#))



## 6. Conclusions and Looking Forward

With the continuous support of all the Editorial Board Members, Guest Editors, reviewers, and authors, we have taken a very big step forward in 2020. We achieved a steady increase in publications, controlled the quality very rigorously, and reduced the processing time significantly.

*Crystals* celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2020, and we have already launched a commemorative Special Issue to mark this occasion: “A 10 Year Journey: Chemical, Physical, and Biological Properties and Applications of Crystals” ([https://www.mdpi.com/journal/crystals/special\\_issues/10-Year\\_Crystals](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/crystals/special_issues/10-Year_Crystals)). The “10th Anniversary Best Paper Award” is also being prepared for announcement, and intends to acknowledge our authors’ support while promoting high-quality papers at the same time. We will continue to aim for a higher level, striving to build a good reputation for the journal by providing exceptional service to scholars.

## Acknowledgments

We appreciate the great effort and support from all Editorial Board Members (please find a list of our editors at <http://www.mdpi.com/journal/crystals/editors>). They have all provided invaluable help toward journal development in the past year. We would like to give our special thanks to our Guest Editors for editing excellent and successful Special Issues for this journal. Thanks to the hard work of all of these excellent scientists, we ensured that each issue ran smoothly and was published in a timely manner.

## Appendix A: Bibliometrics

**Table A1.** Top 5 cited papers published in the last 2 years.

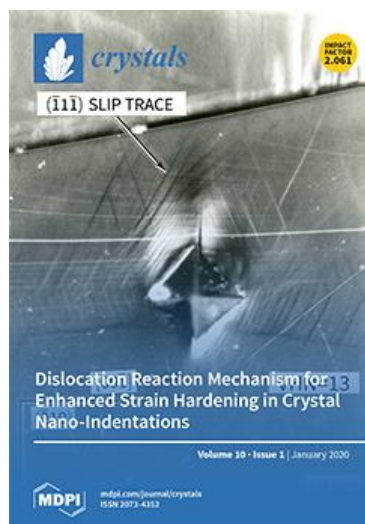
No. of Citations	Title
54	Not Only Hydrogen Bonds: Other Noncovalent Interactions
12	A Novel Ag-N-Heterocyclic Carbene Complex Bearing the Hydroxyethyl Ligand: Synthesis, Characterization, Crystal and Spectral Structures and Bioactivity Properties
12	From Equilibrium Liquid Crystal Formation and Kinetic Arrest to Photonic Bandgap Films Using Suspensions of Cellulose Nanocrystals
9	Electromechanically Rotatable Cross-Shaped Mid-IR Metamaterial
8	Interaction and Polarization Energy Relationships in $\sigma$ -Hole and $\pi$ -Hole Bonding

**Table A2.** Top 5 cited papers since 2011.

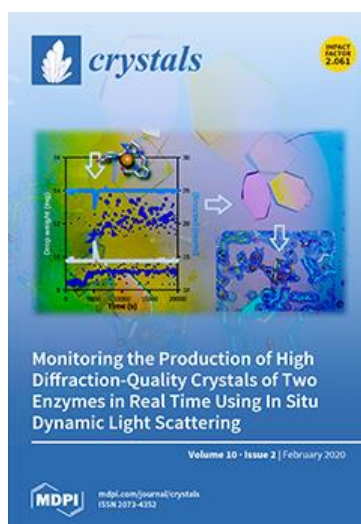
No. of Citations	Title
139	High Birefringence Liquid Crystals
130	Crystal and Magnetic Structures in Layered, Transition Metal Dihalides and Trihalides

125	$\sigma$ -Hole Interactions of Covalently-Bonded Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Arsenic: A Survey of Crystal Structures
102	Metals on Graphene: Interactions, Growth Morphology, and Thermal Stability
77	Nano-Objects and Ions in Liquid Crystals: Ion Trapping Effect and Related Phenomena

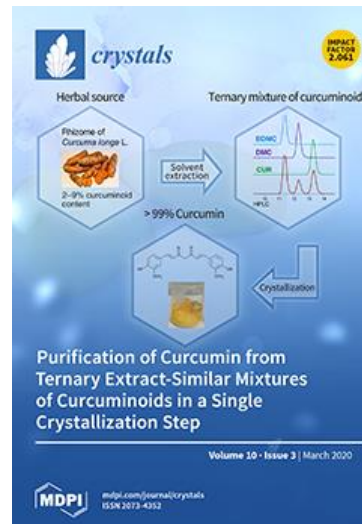
## Appendix B: *Crystals* Cover Image for Issues 1–12; Volume 10.



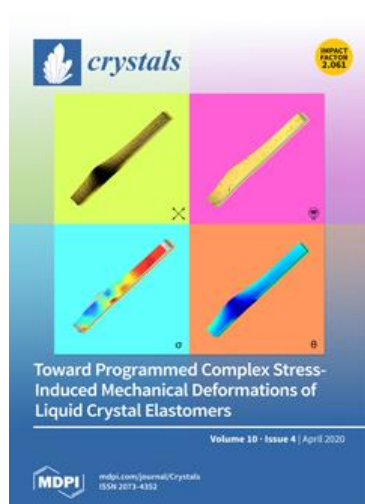
Volume 10, Issue 1



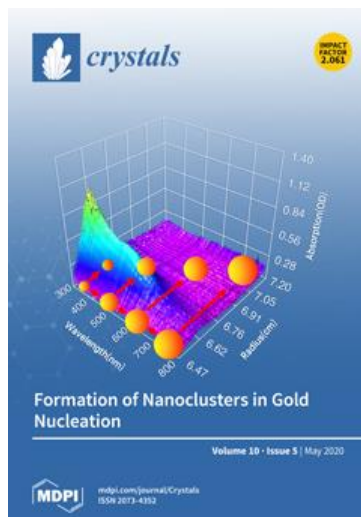
Volume 10, Issue 2



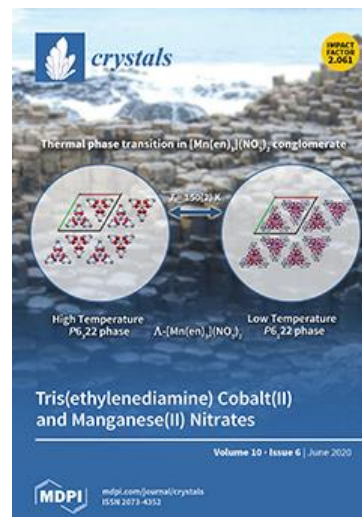
Volume 10, Issue 3



Volume 10, Issue 4



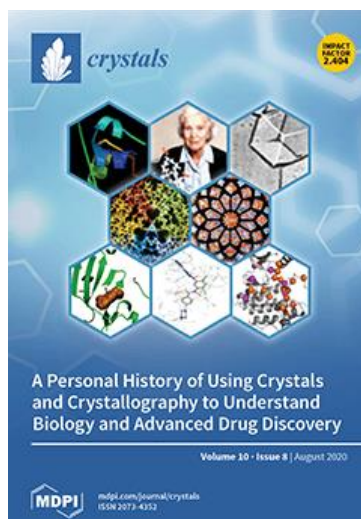
Volume 10, Issue 5



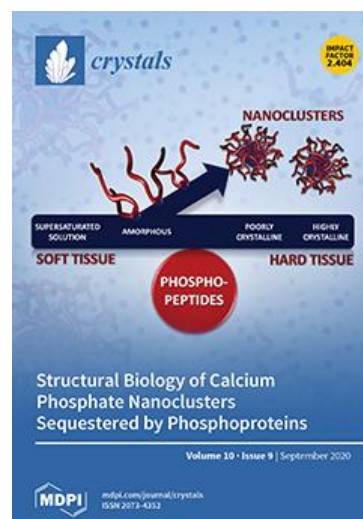
Volume 10, Issue 6



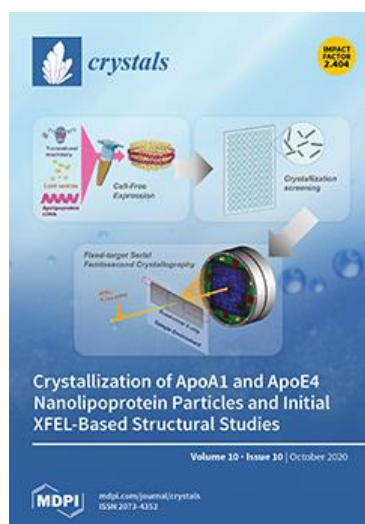
**Volume 10, Issue 7**



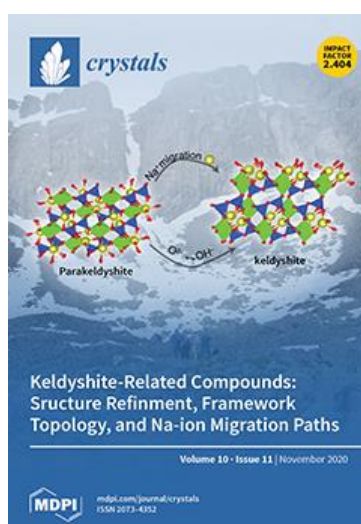
**Volume 10, Issue 8**



**Volume 10, Issue 9**



**Volume 10, Issue 10**



**Volume 10, Issue 11**



**Volume 10, Issue 12**