

Annual Report 2017



Academic Open Access Publishing
since 1996



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Message from the CEO

The year 2017 has been extremely interesting and rewarding for open access publishing and for open science. Funders and policy-makers have demonstrated a strong commitment and support for open access publishing, and to immediate availability of research output.

In 2017, MDPI has continued to focus on its primary purpose of making science openly and rapidly available. We took great care in fulfilling this mission, and constantly kept in mind our responsibility towards researchers and science, to disseminate the latest research findings without delay, facilitating new research projects to be initiated and new breakthroughs to be made.

"The past year has been intense and rewarding for MDPI."

We published 35,950 peer-reviewed articles in our journals, 96% of which are available in *Web of Science*. This marks a 52.5% increase compared to 2016 and makes MDPI a leader among pure open access publishers. This has only been possible thanks to the trust that authors have placed in our journals, the dedication of our academic editors and reviewers, and the devotion of MDPI team members for every single manuscript.

In 2017, we continued to demonstrate our commitment to serving research communities. We signed several initiatives, such as the Initiative for Open Citations (I4OC) and the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment

(DORA), and we joined the trial of Knowledge Unlatched for funding open access in the Humanities. We strengthened our program to reward and credit the important work done by reviewers by transferring reviewers' information to Publons and offered APC vouchers to reviewers for future publications in our journals. We also added a free job advertisement service on the website of each journal. We presented more than 100 awards for researchers, including *The World Sustainability Award* and *The Emerging Sustainability Leader Award*, and sponsored 2397 academic events.

Our literature database, *Scilit*, expanded and now contains more than 100 million publication records, a number that increases every day, and we launched *SciFeed* for users to receive regular alerts about new articles in their field from any publisher.

I believe that 2018 will be a crucial year for the future of open access. Libraries, policy-makers and funders are starting to work together to effect a permanent transition.

At MDPI, we are looking forward to keeping up with these important developments.



8 February 2018

Dr. Franck Vazquez, Chief Executive Officer

MDPI at a Glance



190 Peer-Reviewed Open Access Journals

Preprints

2009 Preprints posted in 2017

► p. 10



A free scientific literature database including the latest published articles from any publisher in real time.

108 million records including **2** million preprints. ► p. 11



An open platform for scholarly exchange and collaboration. Participate or set up your own conference in any scientific field. Create your own discussion groups.

24 Conferences hosted in 2017.

► p. 12



301 Participants in the Institutional Open Access Program

► p. 13



145 Special Issue Reprints published and **696** copies sold in 2017

► p. 15



A complete submission system for scholarly publishing

► p. 26



111 Articles printed on demand

Key Figures

82.1K
submissions
received in 2017

25.3
days
from submission to first decision
(median across all journals)

23.5K
academic editors
overseeing peer-review as external experts

36M
PDF downloads
across all MDPI Journals during 2017

52.5%
growth
in 2017 based on papers published

35.9K
articles
published in 2017

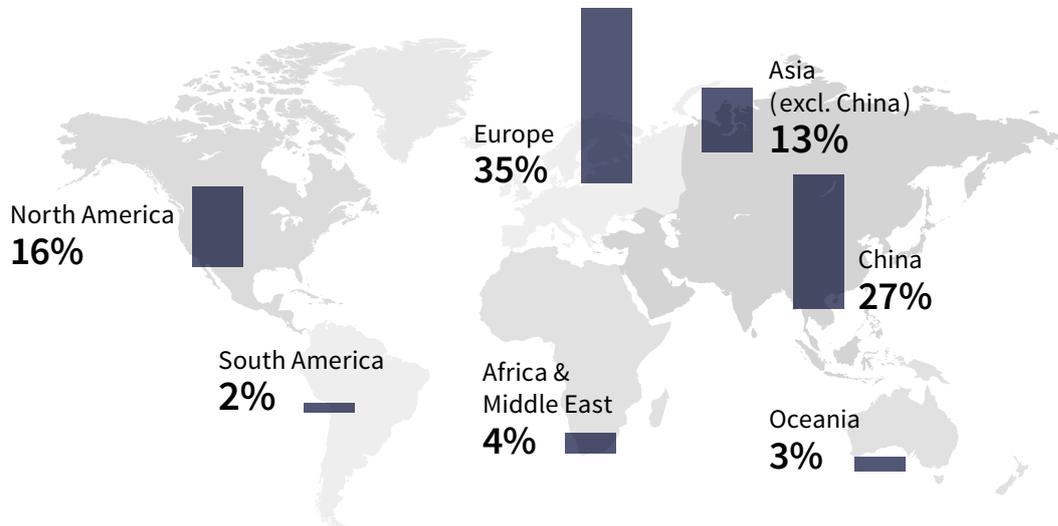
50.0
days
from submission to publication
(median across all journals)

171K
peer-review reports
received in 2017

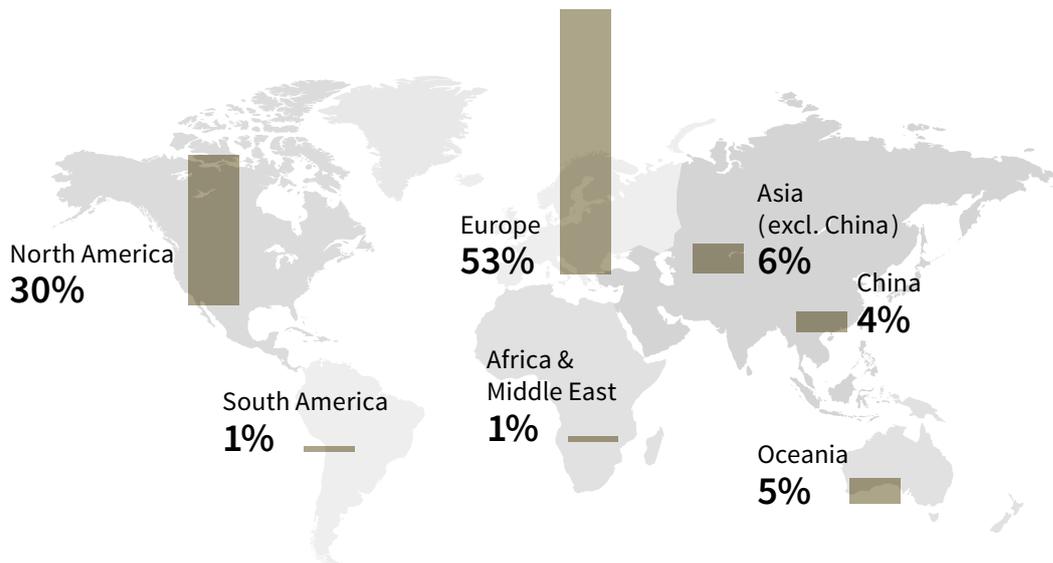
2.4K
academic events
sponsored by MDPI in 2017, including travel grants to
Editor-in-Chiefs and Editorial Board Members

19
new journals
launched in 2017

Geographical Distribution of MDPI Authors in 2017



Geographical Distribution of MDPI Reviewers in 2017



Quality of Service

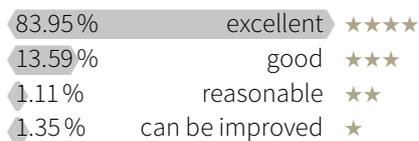
11,020 Reviewers

rated our publishing service as



1,626 Authors

rated our publishing service as



Source: MDPI author and reviewer surveys 2017

Major Journal Growth in Number of Articles Published

	<i>Applied Sciences</i>	+ 165%		<i>Symmetry</i>	+ 90%
	<i>Genes</i>	+ 151%		<i>Energies</i>	+ 87%
	<i>Crystals</i>	+ 116%		<i>Minerals</i>	+ 81%

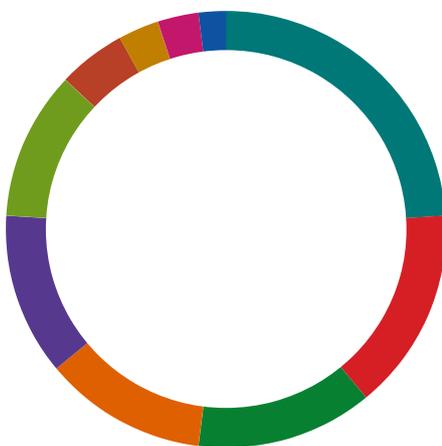
Indexing (Number of Journals Indexed in Databases)

110 Web of Science Core Collection **(+ 25** journals added this year **)**
 37 Science Citation Index Expanded
 73 Emerging Sources Citation Index
 15 BIOSIS Previews

49 Pubmed **(+ 12** journals added this year **)**

86 Scopus **(+ 26** journals added this year **)**

Publication by Subject Area



	Chemistry and Materials Science	24%
	Medicine and Pharmacology	15%
	Environmental and Earth Sciences	13%
	Engineering	12%
	Physical Sciences	12%
	Biology and Life Sciences	11%
	Public Health and Healthcare	5%
	Business and Economics	3%
	Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities	3%
	Computer Science and Mathematics	2%

Overview of Access to MDPI.com in 2017

88 %
Desktop access



12 %
Mobile access (including tablets)



52.1M
Page Views

35.9M
PDF Downloads

22.2M
Sessions

12.1M
Users



19 Journals Launched in 2017



*big data and
cognitive computing*

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Min Chen
Huazhong University of Science and
Technology, China



chemengineering

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Alirio Egídio Rodrigues
University of Porto, Portugal



*colloids
and interfaces*

Editor-in-Chief:

Dr. Reinhard Miller
Max Planck Institute of Colloids and
Interfaces, Germany



cryptography

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Kwangjo Kim
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and
Technology (KAIST), Korea



designs

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Hamid Reza Karimi
Politecnico di Milano, Italy



drones

Editor-in-Chief:

Dr. Diego González-Aguilera
University of Salamanca, Spain



epigenomes

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Muller Fabbri
Children's Hospital Los Angeles, USA



fractal and fractional

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Carlo Cattani
University of Tuscia, Italy



genealogy

Editor-in-Chief:

Dr. Philip Kretsedemas
University of Massachusetts, USA



instruments

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Antonio Ereditato
University of Bern, Switzerland



*Journal of
composites science*

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Francesco Tornabene
University of Bologna, Italy



*Journal of
Manufacturing and
Materials Processing*

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Steven Y. Liang
Georgia Institute of Technology, USA



logistics

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. John D. Kasarda
University of North Carolina, USA



*Multimodal Technologies
and Interaction*

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Adrian David Cheok
Imagineering Institute, Malaysia; City,
University of London, UK



proceedings

Editor-in-Chief:

Conference Chairs



*quantum beam
science*

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dieter Liss
Guangdong Technion – Israel Institute of
Technology (GTIIT), China



soils

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Scott Fendorf
Stanford University, USA



urban science

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Michael Peter Smith
University of California, USA



vision

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Andrew Parker
University of Oxford, UK

Preprints.org in 2017

Preprints.org aims to accelerate the dissemination of knowledge by allowing scholars from all disciplines to deposit their papers online before peer review. They can share and cite their work, and receive feedback from colleagues without having to wait for journal editorial processes that can take months or even years. Preprints.org helps to put authors in control of sharing their own research.

Launched in mid-2016, Preprints.org saw continued growth in 2017.

2.4K preprints

posted online in 2017

> 10K unique authors

have posted a preprint

393K visits

to our website in 2017

2 steps

in our simplified submission process

In 2017, we also introduced the following features:

- Collaboration with Publons to get credit for comments made at Preprints.org.
- Screening of preprints by the research community.
- Search preprints from multiple databases, using data from Scilit.

On 3 May, we celebrated 1000 preprints online, and by 26 September we celebrated posting our 2000th preprint.

The concept of preprints gained traction in a number of fields, and members of the Preprints.org team participated in meetings organized by the International Society of Technical and Managing Editors (ISMTE), and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), and ASAPbio (Accelerating Science and Publication in Biology).

In 2018, Preprints.org will continue to work closely with the research community to create a preprints experience that supports transparent, open and high quality research.

The logo for Preprints.org features the word "Preprints" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "P" is significantly larger and is contained within a yellow square that has a 3D effect, appearing to be slightly offset from the rest of the text.

► More information: www.preprints.org

Scilit in 2017

Scilit (scilit.net) is a database containing over 100 million research articles. It is available as a search engine in addition to underpinning powerful functions used by MDPI editors and other publishers, including:

Scitations

A service to notify authors when their work has been cited.

Scholarly journal statistics contains data on the academic publishing industry and provides information on individual publishers and journals.

Scifeed

Keep up with the latest research by having alerts of published papers delivered to your inbox.

In 2017, the following key features were introduced to Scilit:

- API to perform advanced searches on the entire Scilit database.
- Publisher profiles, from which publishers can verify and update data about their journals and articles.
- Inclusion of more preprint sources.
- The addition of data from ORCID, to enable better matching of authors to articles.

Scilit is now one of the largest and most comprehensive academic databases, often picking up papers within hours of journal publication.

Search over **100M** articles

Create Daily Alerts



► More information: www.scilit.net



Sciforum in 2017

Sciforum is a platform for scholarly communities exchange and collaboration, developed and maintained by MDPI.

With Sciforum you can:

- Organize physical and electronic conferences
- Host or participate in a discussion group
- Share papers and files
- Interact and engage with scholars from your field
- Keep track of new developments in your field
- Access data on academic publishers and journals

Organize your own conferences

Currently we offer two options to use the Sciforum platform: managed service (website, submissions, registrations and billing are fully or partially managed by Sciforum Staff) and a self-service option (website, submissions, registrations and billing are fully managed by yourself).

Both services include:

- Conference website
- Online submission system for authors
- Online review system for editors
- Online registration and billing
- Mailing function
- Data export (abstracts, participant list, registration details, etc)
- DOI numbers assigned to published submissions

994K

 page views

in 2017

3.5K

 new accounts

in 2017

24

 conferences

organized through Sciforum
(9 e-conferences, 15 physical conferences)

MDPI start to provide additional optional services

- Professional copy-editing
- English language editing
- Registration of DOI numbers

Sciforum

For more detailed information,
please contact: conferences@sciforum.net
► sciforum.net

Institutional Open Access Program in 2017

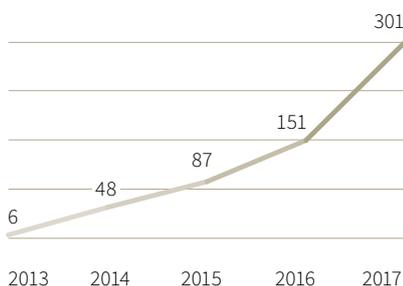
MDPI's Institutional Open Access Program (IOAP) is designed to help institutions manage the transition to the open access (OA) publishing model. We appreciate the vital role which librarians, repository managers, and other scholarly communications professionals play in the field and our communication with, and service to this community is one of our main priorities. The IOAP is our way to support academic and scientific institutions as well as their scholars in managing, administrating, and publishing research in an OA world.

We were delighted to see the total number of IOAP participants reaching 301 by the end of 2017. There has been a steep increase in the number of participants since the start of the program in 2013. As shown in the graphs below, the number rose from 6 in the first year of the program in 2013 to 87 in 2015 and 301 in 2017. These are institutions from all over the world – most of them are based in Europe, North America, and Asia, while the top countries in terms of number of participants are the USA, Germany, China, Spain, and the UK.

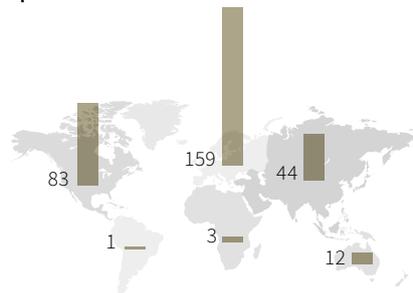
Researchers affiliated with the IOAP participating universities benefit from a 10% discount on the Article Processing Charge (APC) for any paper published in an MDPI journal, while the library or university incurs no basic fee for participating in the program. The IOAP set of free services includes:

- No fee for participants and no obligation to prolong after the initial 12 months. The participants may withdraw from the program at any time, and we will also keep it free for the library for as long as they continue in the program.
- Authors affiliated with the university will receive a 10% discount on the APC.
- The institution is granted free access to the MDPI submission system and can receive free alerts of new submissions to our journals.
- By default, authors from the institution will continue to be invoiced directly unless the institution opts for central billing.
- Auto-archiving of papers into the institutions' repository as long as it supports SWORD 1.3

**Number of IOAP participants per year
2013 – 2017**



**Number of IOAP participants
per continent**



**Number of IOAP participants per country
(top 10 countries)**

USA	74
Germany	51
China	31
Spain	29
UK	20
Australia	10
Canada	9
Switzerland	9
Austria	9
Poland	7

More details about the program and a list of our current participant institutions can be found at:

► www.mdpi.com/about/ioap



OA Initiatives in 2017

Contributing to the Open Access Initiative

MDPI supports scholarly communities and initiatives that innovate and further promote OA publishing and was keen to be involved in several OA projects and events in the past year contributing in different ways to the OA movement around the world:

Supported the Initiative for Open Citations

The Initiative for Open Citations (I4OC) is a collaboration between several stakeholders in scholarly communications that recognize that citations should be freely available and machine-readable.

► <https://i4oc.org>



Signed the Jussieu Call for Open Science and Bibliodiversity

The Jussieu Call aims to develop and implement alternative models to meet the aims of open science while promoting bibliodiversity.

► jussieucall.org



Signed the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)

The DORA initiative addresses the need for advanced approaches in the evaluation and measurement of the quality of scientific research outputs.

► www.ascb.org/dora



Participated in the Knowledge Unlatched Project

As of 2018, APC for some or all articles published in MDPI journals are planned to be covered via the Knowledge Unlatched crowd-funding mechanism.

► www.knowledgeunlatched.org/ku-select-2017-journals



Took part in OA Week Events

MDPI celebrated the Open Access Week with several workshops in Switzerland, Spain, Belgium and Malta and also with Open Doors sessions in our offices in Beijing and Wuhan.

► www.openaccessweek.org



Top MDPI Books in 2017

Top digital books in 2017 by downloads



Applied Sciences
Applied Artificial Neural Networks
 edited by Christian Dawson



Remote Sensing
Water Optics and Water Colour Remote Sensing
 edited by Yunlin Zhang, Claudia Giardino and Linhai Li



Sensors
Imaging: Sensors and Technologies
 edited by Gonzalo Pajares Martinsanz



Applied Sciences
Audio Signal Processing
 edited by Vesa Välimäki



Genes
DNA Replication Controls Volume 1
 edited by Eishi Noguchi

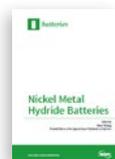
Top 5 books sold (printed version) in 2017



Remote Sensing
Calibration/Validation of Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometers and Applications
 edited by Changyong Cao



Toxins
Snake Venom Metalloproteinases
 edited by Jay Fox and José María Gutiérrez



Batteries
Nickel Metal Hydride Batteries
 edited by Kwo Young



Land
Biodiversity in Locally Managed Lands
 edited by Jeffrey Sayer and Chris Margules

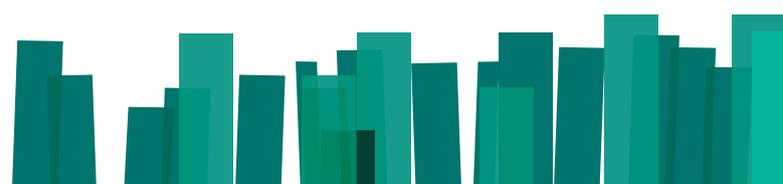


Religions
Music and Spirituality
 edited by Edward Foley

-  Open Access
-  Author Focus
-  High Quality and Rapid Publication
-  High Visibility
-  Print on Demand and Multiple Formats

MDPI Books
 Publishing Open Access Books & Series

► More information: www.mdpi.com/books



Journal Development in 2017^{*}

SCIE – Web of Science Journals	Papers Published in 2017	Papers Published in 2016	Publication Growth	Impact Factor 2016 (JCR 2017)	Impact Factor 2015 (JCR 2016)	Change 2015 – 2016	Citations in 2016 (JCR 2017)
<i>Sensors</i>	2982	2237	▲+33.3%	2.667	2.033	31%	23,901
<i>IJMS</i>	2807	2166	▲+29.6%	3.226	3.257	-1%	25,928
<i>Sustainability</i>	2404	1363	▲+76.4%	1.789	1.343	33%	4,488
<i>Molecules</i>	2278	1769	▲+28.8%	2.861	2.465	16%	23,361
<i>Energies</i>	2209	1106	▲+99.7%	2.262	2.077	9%	6,414
<i>IJERPH</i>	1624	1210	▲+34.2%	2.101	2.035	3%	9,250
<i>Materials</i>	1491	1036	▲+43.9%	2.654	2.728	-3%	8,140
<i>Nutrients</i>	1383	840	▲+64.6%	3.550	3.759	-6%	7,118
<i>Remote Sensing</i>	1364	1035	▲+31.8%	3.244	3.036	7%	8,883
<i>Applied Sciences</i>	1331	472	▲+182.0%	1.679	1.726	-3%	591
<i>Water</i>	1006	606	▲+66.0%	1.832	1.687	9%	1,970
<i>Polymers</i>	762	443	▲+72.0%	3.364	2.944	14%	2,890
<i>Entropy</i>	693	459	▲+51.0%	1.821	1.743	4%	3,243
<i>Metals</i>	587	327	▲+79.5%	1.984	1.574	26%	566
<i>Forests</i>	502	329	▲+52.6%	1.951	1.583	23%	1,332
<i>Nanomaterials</i>	471	245	▲+92.2%	3.553	2.690	32%	1,174
<i>Toxins</i>	414	379	▲+9.2%	3.030	3.571	-15%	3,911
<i>ISPRS IJGI</i>	409	251	▲+62.9%	1.502	0.651	131%	552
<i>Viruses</i>	406	332	▲+22.3%	3.465	3.042	14%	4,670
<i>Genes</i>	399	146	▲+173.3%	3.600	3.242	11%	863
<i>Catalysts</i>	391	219	▲+78.5%	3.082	2.964	4%	1,072
<i>Marine Drugs</i>	391	231	▲+69.3%	3.503	3.345	5%	6,693
<i>Crystals</i>	386	167	▲+131.1%	1.566	2.075	-25%	417
<i>Micromachines</i>	376	241	▲+56.0%	1.833	1.295	42%	760
<i>Symmetry</i>	331	162	▲+104.3%	1.457	0.841	73%	505
<i>Atmosphere</i>	260	161	▲+61.5%	1.487	1.221	22%	501
<i>Minerals</i>	255	132	▲+93.2%	2.088	1.500	39%	344
<i>Coatings</i>	251	74	▲+239.2%	2.175	–	–	315

* All data as per Clarivate Analytics.

Journal Rankings by Quartile in Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) *

Quartile	Journals	Ranking	Category
Q1	<i>Metals</i>	13/74	METALLURGY & METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING
	<i>Nanomaterials</i>	59/275	MATERIALS SCIENCE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
	<i>Polymers</i>	16/86	POLYMER SCIENCE
	<i>Remote Sensing</i>	7/29	REMOTE SENSING
	<i>Sensors</i>	10/58	INSTRUMENTS & INSTRUMENTATION
	<i>Forests</i>	13/64	FORESTRY
	<i>Marine Drugs</i>	13/60	CHEMISTRY, MEDICINAL
	<i>Minerals</i>	4/20	MINING & MINERAL PROCESSING
Q2	<i>Materials</i>	82/275	MATERIALS SCIENCE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
	<i>Metals</i>	127/275	MATERIALS SCIENCE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
	<i>Nutrients</i>	23/81	NUTRITION & DIETETICS
	<i>Toxins</i>	30/92	TOXICOLOGY
	<i>Catalysts</i>	53/146	CHEMISTRY, PHYSICAL
	<i>Energies</i>	45/92	ENERGY & FUELS
	<i>Entropy</i>	26/79	PHYSICS, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
	<i>Sustainability</i>	47/105	ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES-SSCI
	<i>Genes</i>	56/167	GENETICS & HEREDITY
	<i>IJERPH</i>	101/229	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
		70/176	PUBLIC, ENVIRONMENTAL & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
	<i>IJMS</i>	117/290	BIOCHEMISTRY & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
		54/166	CHEMISTRY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
	<i>Minerals</i>	9/29	MINERALOGY
	<i>Micromachines</i>	23/58	INSTRUMENTS & INSTRUMENTATION
	<i>Molecules</i>	17/59	CHEMISTRY, ORGANIC
	<i>Nanomaterials</i>	34/87	NANOSCIENCE & NANOTECHNOLOGY
	<i>Sensors</i>	25/76	CHEMISTRY, ANALYTICAL
		12/29	ELECTROCHEMISTRY
	<i>Symmetry</i>	25/64	MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCIENCES
<i>Viruses</i>	12/34	VIROLOGY	
<i>Water</i>	34/88	WATER RESOURCES	
Q3		150/275	MATERIALS SCIENCE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
	<i>Applied Sciences</i>	75/148	PHYSICS, APPLIED
		91/166	CHEMISTRY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
		18/31	GREEN & SUSTAINABLE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY-SCIE
	<i>Sustainability</i>	119/229	ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES-SCIE
		4/6	GREEN & SUSTAINABLE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY-SSCI
	<i>Micromachines</i>	57/87	NANOSCIENCE & NANOTECHNOLOGY
	<i>Crystals</i>	165/275	MATERIALS SCIENCE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
		18/26	CRYSTALLOGRAPHY
	<i>Atmosphere</i>	57/85	METEOROLOGY & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES
Q4	<i>ISPRS IJGI</i>	35/49	GEOGRAPHY, PHYSICAL
	<i>ISPRS IJGI</i>	22/29	REMOTE SENSING

* Source: Clarivate Analytics' Journal Citation Reports 2016 Edition

Journals Tracked for Impact Factor in 2018

	Papers Published in 2017	Papers Published in 2016	Publication Growth
 <i>cancers</i>	167	110	▲ +51.8%
 <i>cells</i>	48	45	▲ +6.7%
 <i>animals</i>	94	79	▲ +19%
 <i>pharmaceutics</i>	54	38	▲ +42.1%
 Journal of <i>Clinical Medicine</i>	115	116	▼ -0.7%
 <i>insects</i>	128	81	▲ +58.0%
 <i>agronomy</i>	82	62	▲ +32.3%
 <i>electronics</i>	102	97	▲ +5.2%
 <i>processes</i>	84	55	▲ +52.7%

Electronic Conferences in 2017



2nd International Electronic Conference on Atmospheric Sciences

16 – 31 July 2017

Chair: Prof. Dr. Anthony R. Lupo

Number of abstracts: 36 – Participants: 112



21st International Electronic Conference on Synthetic Organic Chemistry

1 – 30 November 2017

Chair: Prof. Dr. Julio A. Seijas Vázquez

Number of abstracts: 238 – Participants: 381



3rd International Electronic Conference on Medicinal Chemistry

1 – 30 November 2017

Chair: Prof. Dr. Jean Jacques Vanden Eynde

Number of abstracts: 80 – Participants: 286



4th International Electronic Conference on Sensors and Applications

15 – 30 November 2017

Chairs: Prof. Dr. Stefano Mariani, Prof. Dr. Francesco Ciucci, Prof. Dr. Dirk Lehmus,
Dr. Thomas B. Messervey, Prof. Dr. Alberto Vallan, Dr. Stefan Bosse

Number of abstracts: 67 – Participants: 216



2nd International Electronic Conference on Water Sciences

16 – 30 November 2017

Chairs: Prof. Dr. Maria Filomena Camões and Prof. Dr. Kevin B. Strychar

Number of abstracts: 30 – Participants: 96



2nd International Electronic Conference on Metabolomics

20 November – 1 December 2017

Chair: Prof. Dr. Peter Meikle

Number of abstracts: 23 – Participants: 82



4th International Electronic Conference on Entropy and Its Applications

21 November – 1 December 2017

Chair: Prof. Dr. Philip Broadbridge

Number of abstracts: 45 – Participants: 73

Call for Expression of Interest

Call for Expression of Interest in Hosting Conferences

The Steering Committees of the International Symposium on Sensor Science (I3S), the International Symposium on Frontiers in Molecular Science (ISFMS) and the Symmetry Conference are seeking Expressions of Interest (EoI) from universities/organizations/individual scholars to host an edition of the conference series.

For full reading, please refer to:



International Symposium on Sensor Science (I3S)

► sciforum.net/conference/I3S_EoI



International Symposium on Molecular Science (ISFMS):

► sciforum.net/conference/MolSci_EoI



Symmetry Conference:

► sciforum.net/conference/Symmetry_EoI

Physical Conferences in 2017

The 6th World Sustainability Forum (Cape Town, 27 – 28 January)

The *World Sustainability Forum* (WSF) is an annual sustainability conference which addresses research in a range of areas related to sustainable development and sustainability globally. A total of 256 participants from 25 different countries discussed the 17 sustainable development goals adopted as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the UN in September 2015. Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs and Dr. Sonia Ehrlich Sachs were the joint recipients of the *1st World Sustainability Award* funded by the MDPI Sustainability Foundation. The WSF was preceded by the 1st Postgraduate Forum on Sustainability, a workshop for postgraduates linked to WSF to equip them with the skills necessary to promote sustainability.



2nd International Symposium on Frontiers in Molecular Science (Basel, 21 – 23 June)

The second edition of this series brought together 110 attendees from 26 different countries. Several leaders in the field presented the roles of miRNAs and lncRNAs in cancer, with a focus on the recently identified novel mechanisms of action. The current strategies in designing ncRNA-targeting therapeutics were discussed, as well as the associated challenges.

MMCS 2017 – 1st Molecules Medicinal Chemistry Symposium (Barcelona, 8 September).

This one-day meeting was held in Barcelona and brought together 71 scholars from 18 different countries. The symposium was chaired by Prof. Dr. Diego Muñoz-Torrero, from the University of Barcelona, and Prof. Dr. Kelly Chibale from the University of Cape Town. In a survey, 91% of the attendees rated the symposium as Excellent or very good. We hope they are able to attend the next edition that will be organized as a three-day conference Barcelona in 2018.



2nd Basel Sustainability Forum (Basel, 15 September)

The 2nd Basel Sustainability Forum addressed several issues, covering local as well as global links to mobility. The conference attracted 126 participants from Switzerland, France and Germany.



I3S2017 – 5th International Symposium on Sensor Science (Barcelona, 27 – 29 September)

The 5th edition of the conference, chaired by Prof. Dr. Arben Merkoçi, from the Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, congregated 157 attendees from 27 different countries in Barcelona. The journal *Sensors* awarded Dr. Larissa Flora and Dr. Paul Raviel with the Best Oral Presentation prize and Ms. Johanna Pilas received the Best Poster Presentation award.

Symmetry 2017 – The First International Conference on Symmetry (Barcelona, 16 – 18 October).

This event saw 96 attendees from 30 different countries gather together in Barcelona to share their latest results in the field. Prof. Dr. Sergei D. Odintsov, from the Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies, chaired a conference where Ms. Juliane Oliveira, Ms. Ekaterina Pozdeeva and Mr. Masashi Yamazaki were awarded with travel awards.



About MDPI

Being a pioneer in academic open access publishing, we have focused on serving and strengthening the scientific community since 1996.

Our main purpose is to provide a valuable service to academic scholars. Our mission is to foster scientific exchange in its various forms, across all scientific disciplines. The driving principles behind everything that we do are the following:



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We offer access to science and the latest research to readers free of charge. All of our content is published in open access format and distributed under a Creative Commons License, which means free distribution and the right to share and re-use published articles.



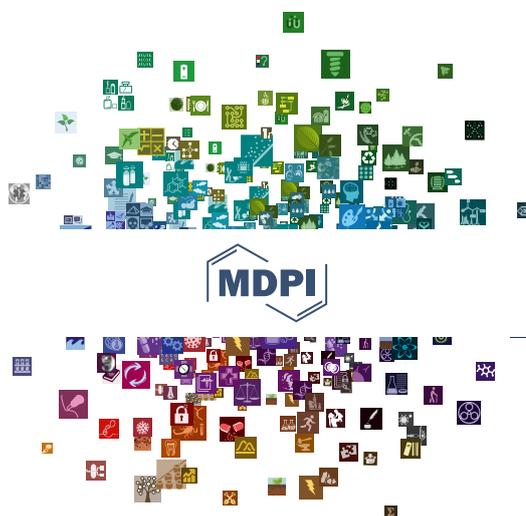
Speed

We publish fast to ensure the latest research is rapidly disseminated, using thorough, precise editorial work. A first decision is provided to authors in under 26 days; once accepted, papers are published in 7–10 days.



Service

We aim to provide a service that supports scholars and their work. By offering a range of different options, including journal publication at mdpi.com, early publication at preprints.org and conferences on Sciforum, we support scientific communities worldwide to make a positive impact on research.



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In a changing and evolving publishing environment, we are constantly adapting and developing new tools and services. By listening to feedback from authors, editors and readers, we can make changes to better meet the needs of our research community and keep MDPI relevant.



Simplicity

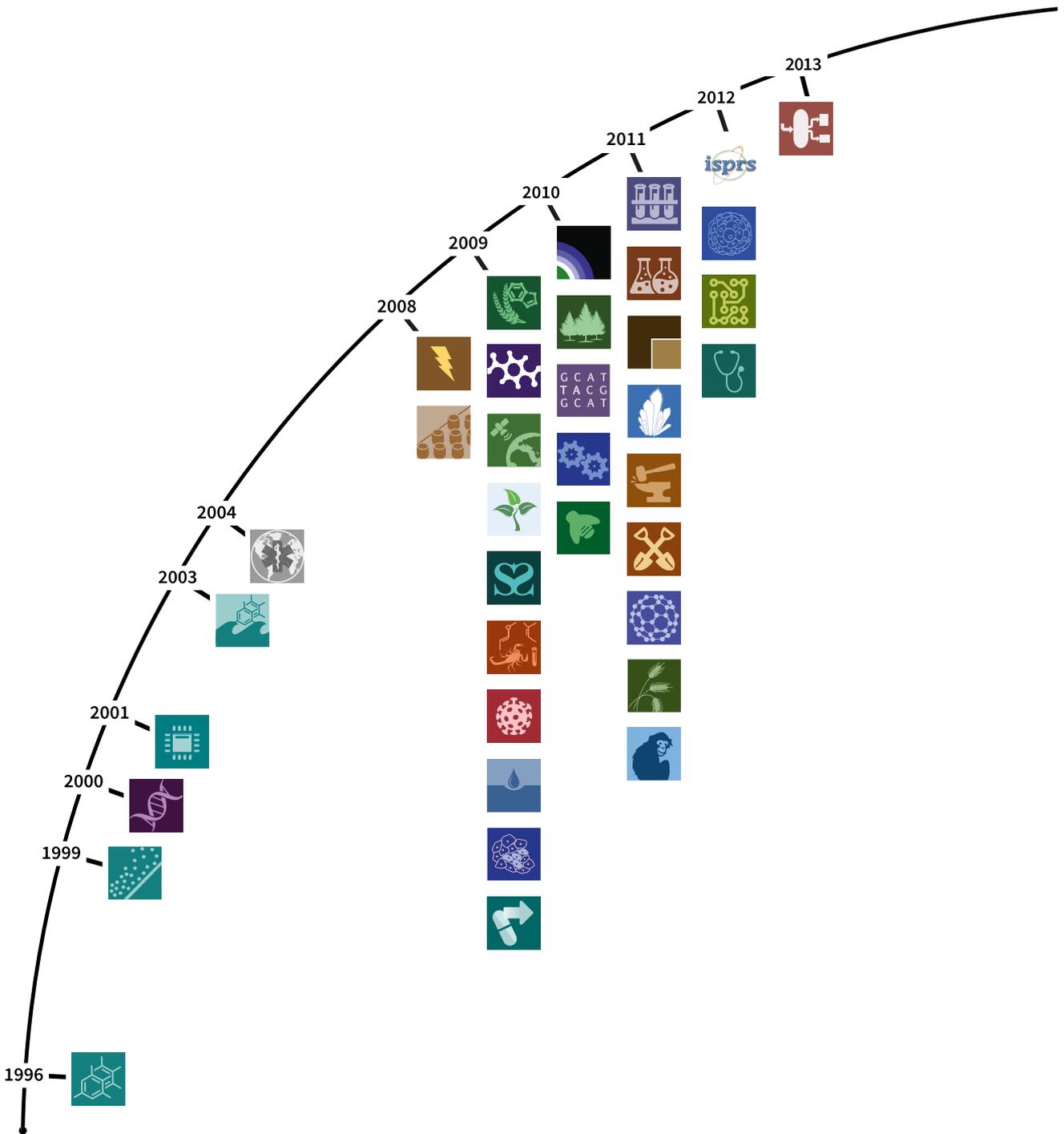
All of our tools and services can be found in one place and prioritize user-friendliness. Simple processes keep our editorial process highly efficient.



Sustainability

In addition to being a key theme in our journals, we support sustainability by ensuring the long-term preservation of published papers, and the future of science through partnerships, sponsorships and awards.

History of our SCIE Journals



Upcoming Physical Conferences in 2018

Viruses 2018 – Breakthroughs in Viral Replication (Barcelona, 7 – 9 February)

The importance of viruses to human health has never been more apparent, and significant progress is being made in understanding virus replication, structure, transmission, pathogenesis, and antiviral immunity. This conference, chaired by Dr. Eric O. Freed, will bring together leading virologists from around the world to share their recent findings.



Polymers 2018 – Design, Function and Application (Barcelona, 21 – 23 March)

The first edition of this conference aims to address the development and testing of the next generation of polymeric materials with previously unrivaled properties for advanced applications. In order to stimulate research activities in these fields, time for discussions and networking will be reserved in the agenda. The chairs are Prof. Dr. Alexander Böker and Prof. Dr. Frank Wiesbrock.



Entropy 2018 – From Physics to Information Sciences and Geometry (Barcelona, 14 – 16 May)

This conference, chaired by the Prof. Dr. Ali Mohammad-Djafari, will bring together leading researchers in the field, to share their recent findings on a range of topics related to entropy. As entropy covers two main scientific domains, physics and information theory, this conference is an opportunity to bring researchers from these two communities together to create a synergy.

2018 International Conference on Applied Sciences and Technologies I3S2018 – 6th International Symposium on Sensor Science and 4th SPINTECH Technology Thesis Award (Kenting, 6 – 8 August 2018)

I3S2018 is open to all professionals from industry, academia and government to discuss the latest developments and breakthroughs of sensor technology and related subjects. During the conference, attendees, from a range of research areas, will all gather together to share different aspects and establish new mutually beneficial collaborations across different fields.



The 7th World Sustainability Forum (Beijing, 17 – 20 September)

The 7th World Sustainability Forum in Beijing in September 2018 is an excellent opportunity for researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to engage with this topic, to expose the urgency of the issues, and to recognize associated individual, collective, and national opportunities. The WSF2018 is also an excellent opportunity to explore differences in national context and culture, and how considerable progress on sustainability can be made despite the multitude of challenges and differences around the world.



Collaborations with Societies

In 2017, MDPI worked to strengthen our collaboration with learned societies and associations of specialists. We established a partnership with the *Taiwanese Institute of Knowledge Innovation (TIKI)* to publish the new journal *Applied System Innovation (ASI)* as the institute's official publication. The first volume is to be released early in 2018. Discussions with other societies and scientific institutions are underway and we hope to be able to announce the collaborations soon.

Fifteen different societies and other scientific institutions became affiliated to various MDPI journals in 2017. To list only a few:

- The American Society for Virology (ASV, www.asv.org) to *Viruses*
- The International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE, www.isde.org) to the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (IJERPH)*
- The International Society for the Study of Information (IS4SI, www.is4si.org) to *Entropy* and *Information*
- The International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE, www.landscape-ecology.org) to *Land*
- The European Cool Roofs Council (ECRC, www.coolroofcouncil.eu) to *Urban Science*

Extended Partnerships

One of MDPI's longest lasting partnerships is with the *International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)*. The partnership was established in 2011 for the publication of the *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information (IJGI)*, *IJGI* for short. The society extended the collaboration with MDPI for another term of five years.

With over 20 years' experience in scholarly peer-reviewed publishing, we provide a technical infrastructure and editorial know-how for a society's existing or new journal:

- Conversion to open access
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- Hosting the journal back-file
- Retaining ownership
- High-Quality Reprints
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The benefits we offer to the affiliated societies may include:

- Discount on the Article Processing Charge
- Free use by the society and all its members of the conference hosting and service platform Sciforum.net
- Discount on the Book Processing Charge for open access books

And many more benefits.

Contact

For more detailed information, please contact Delia Mihaila ► mihaila@mdpi.com

JAMS

Journal and Article Management System

JAMS is an editorial submission system coupled with production services that MDPI offers to other publishers, large or small. It takes MDPI's principles of efficiency and simplicity to provide a single platform that can be used to manage journals, including the editorial process, journal information, invoicing (including article processing charges), and final production. By offering a modular architecture with an API, it can work alongside existing systems and provide flexibility for publishers to customize the system to meet their own needs.

In 2017, JAMS was continuously developed and has been deployed for several publishers, including UCL Press, London and Beijing Zhongke Journal Publishing Co. Ltd. We anticipate further expansion in 2018. Further details can be found at ► www.jams.pub.

Features of JAMS

The JAMS submission website includes the following features and processes:

- Manage journal information
- Maintain editorial boards
- Download journal reports
- Overview of users
- Editable email templates
- Article submission
- Peer review and editorial decisions
- Author revisions
- Production management
- Transfer of files for final publication
- Invoicing of article processing charges

Production services cover the following for Microsoft Word or LaTeX files:

- Layout and copy-editing
- English language editing
- Conversion to JATS XML format
- Production of PDF, HTML and EPUB formats for final publication

Contact

For enquiries and quotations, please contact Dr. Martyn Rittman (rittman@mdpi.com).



JAMS

► More information: www.jams.pub

Corporate Social Responsibility at MDPI

In November 2016, MDPI became a member of the United Nations Global Compact to support corporate sustainability. We have committed ourselves to the ten principles associated with the Compact. As a global publishing house, we see it as our duty to develop responsible practices that will ensure a bright future for our planet. Based on our purpose and company scope, we aim to focus on three UN Sustainability Development Goals:

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

In 2017, we announced the *World Sustainability Award* and the *Emerging Sustainability Leader Award* to encourage new initiatives and developments in sustainability. Both awards are bound to the ultimate aim to foster the transfer from sustainability research to sustainable practices and societies.

Recipients of the *World Sustainability Award* (USD 100,000)

Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs and Dr. Sonia Ehrlich Sachs were the joint recipients of the first *World Sustainability Award* at the end of January 2017. Jeffrey Sachs is a world-renowned economist and senior United Nations (UN) advisor and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. Sonia Sachs is a pediatrician and public health specialist, and director of the Health Centre at the Centre for Sustainable Development, also at Columbia University.

Winners of the *Emerging Sustainability Leader Award* (USD 10,000)

The joint recipients of the first *Emerging Sustainability Leader Award* were Dr. Esther Ngumbi and Dr. Xiaosong Hu. Esther Ngumbi is a postdoctoral researcher at Auburn University in Alabama, USA and served as a 2015 Clinton

Global University Mentor for Agriculture. Xiaosong Hu is a professor at the Chongqing University in China and specializes in automotive control systems and mechanical engineering.

World Sustainability Foundation: <http://wsforum.org>
Press release:

► www.mdpi.com/about/announcements/961

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Since the foundation of MDPI two decades ago, we have provided our staff with equal opportunities to grow and develop their career. At MDPI, we foster gender equality and work to eliminate any form of discrimination against women at work.

We support women in management positions: 50% of MDPI Management are women.

► www.mdpi.com/about/team

Goal 9: Build a resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

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