

Editorial corner – a personal view

General trends in highly cited articles in Express Polymer Letters

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Express Polymer Letters has consistently been at the forefront of disseminating cutting-edge research in the field of polymers. The most cited articles show the areas where research is most active. This editorial looks at the overall trends in these highly cited articles.

The prominence of green polymers

In today's environmentally conscious world, green polymers continue to shine brightly. Highly cited articles often revolve around polymers derived from renewable sources. These sustainable alternatives are not only biodegradable but also reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. The extensive citation of such articles underlines the global quest for eco-friendly materials (<https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2020.59>; <https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2021.11>; <https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2022.64>).

Nanoparticles as a driving force

The integration of nanoparticles into polymer matrices remains at the forefront of polymer research. These nanocomposites offer many possibilities, from enhancing mechanical properties to enabling novel applications in fields like electronics and healthcare. Express Polymer Letters has been a platform for sharing breakthroughs in this area, leading to substantial citations (<https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2020.35>; <https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2021.79>; <https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2022.2>).

Functional polymers and composites

Highly cited articles frequently focus on functional polymers and their composites. These include flame-retardant polymers, conductive composites, and other special materials. Their significance lies in addressing industry-specific challenges and advancing technology in fields such as aerospace, automotive, and electronics industry (<https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2020.10>; <https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2021.48>; <https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2022.5>).

Elastomers on the rise

A notable trend in recent years is the increasing citation of published articles on elastomers. These highly flexible and stretchable polymers find applications across numerous industries. The rising interest in elastomers demonstrates their expanding role in various innovative solutions (<https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2020.71>; <https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2021.27>; <https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2022.11>).

We would like to express our gratitude to the authors who have entrusted their research with Express Polymer Letters and the reviewers who have dedicated their time and expertise to maintain the journal's high standards. We look forward to welcoming future submissions shaping the next generation of highly cited research in Express Polymer Letters.

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