

**LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR**



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Scopus Focus: Indexing the Journal of Plastination

Dear Colleagues,

As you can see from the screenshot below, The Journal of Plastination is now indexed on Scopus, Elsevier's abstract and citation database, covering around 36,377 titles from approximately 11,678 publishers. A search by ISSN (23117761) brings up seven records, from The Journal of Plastination 31(1) (Fig. 1).

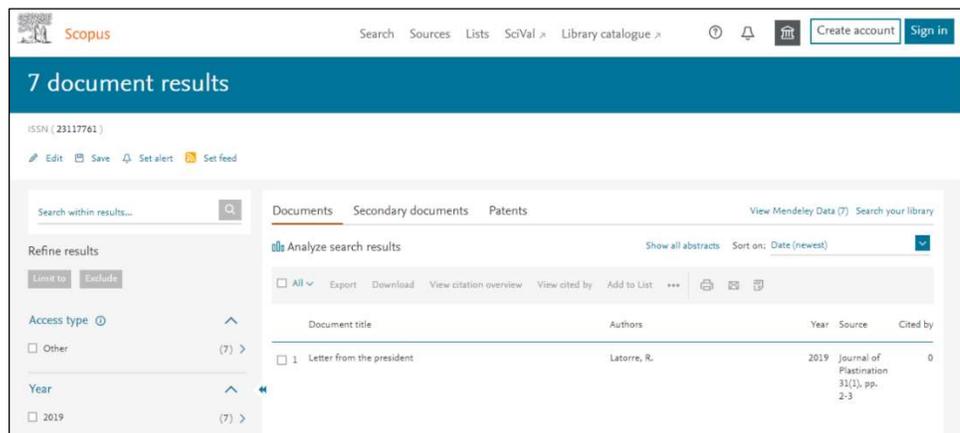


Figure 1. Screenshot of a search for ISSN 23117761 (The Journal of Plastination) on Scopus

In a survey of academic databases, Burnham (2006) concluded that Scopus was “easy to navigate, even for the novice user”. The facility for searching both backwards and forwards from a particular citation was considered to be particularly helpful to the researcher, and the multidisciplinary aspect allows the researcher to easily search outside of his or her discipline.

This is a very important advance for the Journal, and means, of course, that articles published in the Journal (from 2109 onwards, unfortunately it is not retroactive) should now reach a much wider readership amongst academic researchers. It is hugely disappointing that one can read scholarly articles on plastination in high-profile peer-reviewed journals, in which The Journal of Plastination, (or its predecessor The Journal of the International Society for Plastination), surely the gold standard source for papers on the techniques and research potential of plastination, are rarely cited. A PubMed search for papers with ‘plastination’ in either the title or abstract, published since 1st January 2018, yielded 5 papers: four beautiful research papers, and one paper on anatomical learning resources in Korea (Chung and Chung, 2018; Lui et al., 2018; Thorpe Lewis et al., 2018; Kumar et al., 2019; Xu et al., 2020). What is striking is that out of a combined total of 145 references listed, the Journal of Plastination (or its predecessor) are cited only three times. It is to be hoped that with inclusion in Scopus will come greater visibility, and hence more citations, giving the Journal the academic weight that it may appear to lack now.

Unfortunately, Scopus is not free, nor is it available at all institutions. We are currently

investigating the possibility of the International Society for Plastination taking out a subscription, so that members of the ISP can have access – and hopefully help to further the reach of the Journal. The Journal is also currently listed in Google Scholar, though coverage appears to be incomplete and rather random. An application for inclusion in the Web of Science database has been submitted, and I hope to update readers in the next issue, although, as we have seen, evaluation can be a very slow process. If we can get the journal listed on Scopus and Web of Science, we will have a much stronger case for inclusion in PubMed.

In this issue we present papers demonstrating the wide reach of plastination. Xu et al. and Okoye et al. report on aspects of the new P45 sheet plastination method from Hoffen in China; Golos et al. describe plastination of the pitcher plant – it is unusual to see reports of plastination of non-animal specimens, so this paper is particularly welcome. We also publish research from Vandezande et al. on a novel method of identifying specimens with radio frequency identification tags, during and after, the plastination process. This application is particularly relevant during batch plastination of human organs from different individuals, as it is legal requirement in most countries to be able to accurately identify and track donated tissues and organs. We look forward to further reports from their team.

With best wishes,



Philip J Addis
Editor-in-Chief

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