

Figure 2 | A geographical breakdown of manuscript submissions. From our submission system opening in 2008 through to the end of 2013, we received submissions from 75 different countries. Every country from which we received 20 or more submissions is shown as a blue disc and is labelled with the standard 2- or 3-letter country code. The area of the discs is proportional to the number of submissions from each of those countries (the USA submitted the most (1,647) during this period; for comparison, the smallest disc is for Portugal (PT) and that corresponds to 20 submissions). The five countries from which most submissions were received are shown in the darkest shade of blue and progressively lighter shades of blue are used for groups of countries further down the rankings. Submissions were also received from 47 other countries (fewer than 20 manuscripts from each one) and the sum total of these manuscripts is represented by a green disc labelled 'OTHERS'. AT, Austria; AUS, Australia; BEL, Belgium; BRA, Brazil; CAN, Canada; CH, Switzerland; CHN, China; CZ, Czech Republic; DK, Denmark; EGY, Egypt; FRA, France; GER, Germany; IND, India; IRE, Ireland; IRN, Iran; ISR, Israel; ITA, Italy; JPN, Japan; KOR, South Korea; NL, The Netherlands; PL, Poland; PT, Portugal; RU, Russia; SG, Singapore; SPA, Spain; SWE, Sweden; TW, Taiwan; UK, United Kingdom, USA, United States of America.

journal have roughly 3,300 different authors. Our most prolific author has published 7 papers, closely followed by two authors who each have 6 papers and five authors each with 5. We have published 7 single-author contributions (3 research papers and 4 review-type articles) and the most authors we have had on a paper is 28. The average number of authors per paper for these article types is very close to 6 (the median is 5, the mode is 4).

Before *Nature Chemistry* was launched in 2009, the general-chemistry publishing landscape was dominated by the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* and the international edition of *Angewandte Chemie*. Five years on, it is perhaps appropriate to use these journals as a benchmark for comparisons (Fig. 4). When it comes to volume, *Nature Chemistry* publishes only a small fraction of the number of papers that appear in the other two journals. In terms of citations, a look at the data for research papers published in 2012 in each of these three journals reveals that *Nature Chemistry* compares favourably to the other two.

Citation counts are just one measure, however, and since *Nature Chemistry* first launched, article-level metrics including some based on media (both mainstream and social) attention have grown in popularity. Each article now published in *Nature Chemistry* has an associated metrics page that displays not only citation counts and full-text page views, but also

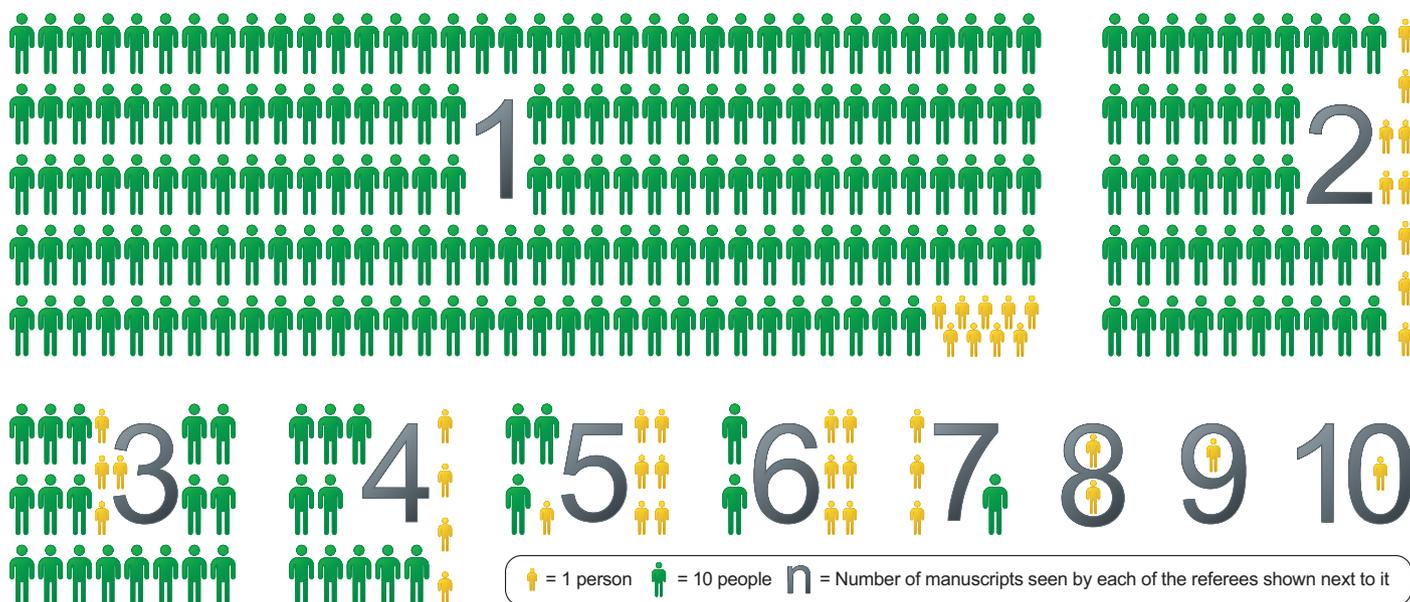


Figure 3 | The *Nature Chemistry* referee pool. From the journal opening for submissions in 2008 through until the end of December 2013, 2,546 scientists kindly refereed manuscripts for us. Most (1,729) of these reviewers evaluated a single manuscript, including revised versions where appropriate. Some referees did look at more than one manuscript for us, and one (very dedicated) individual evaluated 10; nevertheless, even that amount averages out to fewer than two reviewing assignments for *Nature Chemistry* per calendar year over the period of time in question.

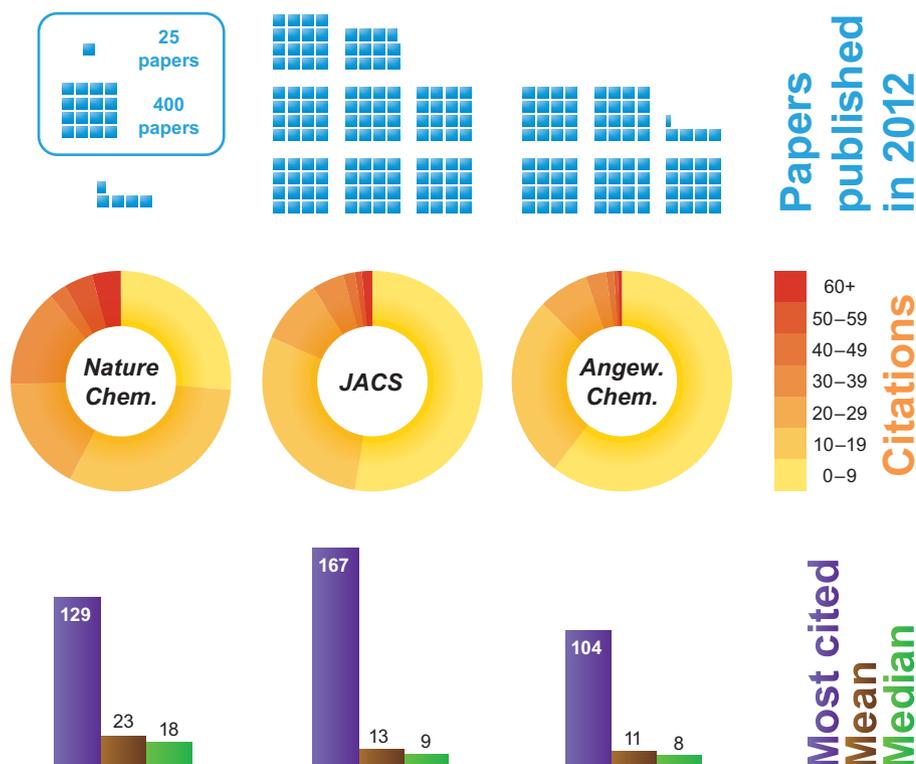


Figure 4 | A comparison of the number of primary research papers published in 2012 in three general chemistry journals and the citations they had received at the time of writing this article. Of these journals, the *Journal of the American Chemical Society (JACS)* published the most research papers in 2012 (more than 3,000), almost 1,000 more than appeared in the international edition of *Angewandte Chemie*, with *Nature Chemistry* publishing only a small fraction in comparison (118 papers). The citation counts of all of these published papers (taken from Thomson Reuters Web of Science on 17 February 2014) have been grouped into ranges and these are shown proportionately for each journal in a ring. For example, of the primary research papers published in *Nature Chemistry* in 2012, just over 26% of them have 0–9 citations; the corresponding figures for the other two journals are 53% (*JACS*) and 61% (*Angewandte Chemie*). The most cited non-review paper published by any of these three journals in 2012 appeared in *JACS*, and currently has 167 citations. The average number (both mean and median) of citations that a primary research paper published in 2012 in each journal has received so far is also shown for comparison.

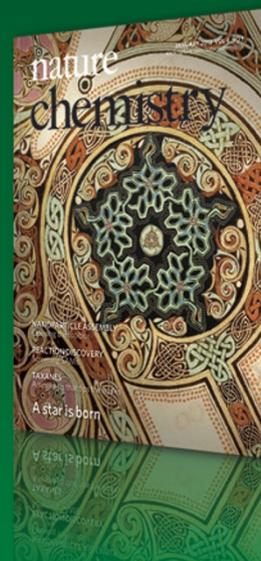
an Altmetric score (<http://www.altmetric.com/>) based on the online attention it garners, whether on blogs, Twitter or news sites. At the time of writing, our paper with the highest Altmetric score is one by Balasubramanian and co-workers that was published just over a year ago (*Nature Chem.* 5, 182–186; 2013), and reports the visualization of G-quadruplexes in the DNA of human cells — a story that gained a lot of traction in the popular press. It is important to note, however, that a paper published in a scientific journal can attract online attention for a wide range of reasons, and the highest-scoring Altmetric papers for some journals are those that have subsequently been withdrawn or undergone major corrections.

When it was announced almost seven years ago that *Nature Chemistry* was to launch, there were questions about whether the community really needed

another general chemistry journal. There are some who probably still wonder the same thing, but since then the Royal Society of Chemistry has launched another two general chemistry journals and the American Chemical Society recently announced a new one of their own. Between them, these two societies have launched (or announced the intention to launch) 30 new titles since 2009 — the year in which *Nature Chemistry* published its first paper.

Although the proliferation of journals will certainly not be welcomed by everyone, it can also be argued that it reflects the strength and diversity of chemistry research. In such a crowded marketplace, however, the journals that stand out are the ones that offer something different from the rest. In the past five years we've strived to be a little bit different and we've enjoyed doing so — and we hope you've enjoyed our first five years too. □

Call for papers



Nature Chemistry invites the submission of high-quality papers that describe the most significant and cutting-edge research in all areas of chemistry.

We welcome the submission of manuscripts in the traditional core areas of chemistry, as well as those that describe cross-disciplinary topics between sub-fields. Articles detailing multidisciplinary research performed at the interface of chemistry and other scientific fields of inquiry such as biology, materials science, nanotechnology and physics are also encouraged.

Manuscripts should be submitted through the *Nature Chemistry* online submission system at <http://mts-nchem.nature.com> and a complete guide to submission can be found at www.nature.com/nchem/authors/index.html

www.nature.com/naturechemistry