Editorial: Wear of materials: a bibliometric analysis

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In general, wear is defined as "the progressive loss of material from the operating surface of a body, which occurs as a result of relative movement on the surface." It is related to surface interactions and, more specifically, to the form of contact due to relative movement. Wear is rarely catastrophic, but it reduces the effective efficiency of machine components and structures (Davim, 2011, 2013, 2018).

The bibliometric analysis used the database Scopus to search for the documents. Using the term {wear} AND {materials}, TITLE-ABS-KEY ({wear} AND {materials}), 156769 documents were identified (search carried out on 12th January 2026).

Table 1 Documents (156,769) by Scopus, 12th January 2026

	Year	*Source*	*Author*	*Affiliation*
1	2025 (10,831)	*Wear* (8,751)	Liu, W. (302)	Chinese Academy of Sciences (4,358)
2	2024 (10,057)	*Surface and Coatings Technology* (3,777)	Bhushan, B. (251)	Ministry of Education of China (4,014)
3	2023 (9,597)	*Tribology International* (3,741)	Fisher, J. (239)	Lanzhou Institute of Chemical Physics (2,819)
4	2022 (9,369)	*Int. J. Adv. Manuf. Tech.* (2,271)	Yang, J. (204)	Southwest Jiaotong University (1,795)
5	2021 (8,685)	*Materials Today Proceedings* (2,148)	Xue, Q. (187)	Tsinghua University (1,472)
6	2019 (8,185)	*Key Engineering Materials* (1,749)	Friedrich, K. (163)	University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (1,425)
7	2020 (8,031)	*Materials* (1,681)	Zhu, M. (161)	Nanjing University of Aero. and Astronautics (1,278)
8	2018 (6,380)	*Journal of Materials Eng. and Performance* (1,560)	Patnaik, A. (160)	Xi'an Jiaotong University (1,222)
9	2017 (5,051)	*Advanced Materials Research* (1,475)	Zhou, F. (158)	Shanghai Jiao Tong University (1,150)
10	2014 (4,402)	*Ceramics International* (1,352)	Bijwe, J. (151)	Harbin Institute of Technology (1,133)

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Table 1 Documents (156,769) by Scopus, 12th January 2026 (continued)

	Country	*Type*	*Area*	*Funding support*
1	China (43,282)	Article (115,660)	Engineering (103,412)	National Natural Sci. Found. of China (17,586)
2	India (18,084)	Conference paper (31,734)	Materials sci. (93,454)	National Key Res. and Dev. Program of China (2,852)
3	USA (15,580)	Review (4,705)	Physics and astr. (49,477)	Fundamental Res. Funds for the Central Univ. (2,368)
4	Germany (8,310)	Book chapter (2,617)	Chemistry. (13,556)	China Postdoctoral Science Foundation (1,450)
5	UK (6,963)	Conference review (983)	Computer sc. (10,676)	National Science Foundation (1,296)
6	Japan (6,586)	Book (282)	Chemical eng. (10,066)	D. Forschungsgemeinschaft (1,101)
7	Russian Fed. (5,799)	Note (180)	Energy (5,674)	European Commission (846)
8	Turkey (3,679)	Short survey (165)	Medicine (4,887)	Engineering and Physical Sc. Research Council (844)
9	Poland (3,315)	Report (120)	Mathematics (4,715)	Natural Science Foundation of Shandong Province (837)
10	France (3,146)	Letter (55)	Environmental sc. (4,456)	Chinese Academy of Sciences (826)

The results obtained in documents can be seen in Table 1, for the first ten positions concerning year, source, author, affiliation, country, document type, scientific area, and funding support. The better results obtained show in function of the number of documents produced: year 2025 (10,831), followed by the years 2024 (10,057) and 2023 (9,597); source *Wear* – Elsevier (8,751) followed by *Surface and Coatings Technology* – Elsevier (3,777) and *Tribology International* – Elsevier (3,741); author Liu, W. – Northwestern Polytechnical University (302), followed by Bhushan, B. – The Ohio State University (251) and Fisher, J. – University of Leeds (239); affiliation Chinese Academy of Sciences (4,358) followed by Ministry of Education of China (4,014) and Lanzhou Institute of Chemical Physics (2,819); country China (43,282) followed by India (18,084) and USA (17,580); document type article (115,660) followed by conference paper (31,734) and review (4,705); scientific area engineering (103,412) followed by materials science (93,454) and physics and astronomy (49,477) and funding support National Natural Science Foundation of China (17,586) followed by National Key Research and Development Program of China (2,852) and Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (2,368).

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