Editorial: Lubrication: a bibliometric analysis

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Usually, lubrication is defined as the process or technique of using a substance (a lubricant) to reduce friction and wear between two relative moving surfaces. The study of lubrication is a discipline in the field of tribology (Davim, 2011, 2017, 2025).

The bibliometric analysis used the database Scopus to search for the documents. Using the term {lubrication}, TITLE-ABS-KEY ({lubrication}), 99,150 documents were identified (search carried out on 9th May 2026).

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 (5,343), followed by the years 2024 (4,945) and 2023 (4,342); source *Tribology International* – Elsevier (3,640) followed by *Wear* – Elsevier (2,606) and *Journal of Tribology* – ASME (2,120); author Zhou, F. – State Key Laboratory of Solidification Processing (320), followed by Dowson, D. – University of Leeds (300) and Guo, F. – Qingdao University of Technology (255); affiliation Chinese Academy of Sciences (2,831) followed by Lanzhou Institute of Chemical Physics (2,163) and Ministry of Education of China (1,970); country China (24,809) followed by USA (15,347) and India (6,218); document type article (74,895) followed by conference paper (16,853) and review (3,527); scientific area engineering (62,290) followed by materials science (42,555) and physics and astronomy (29,614) and funding support National Natural Science Foundation of China (10,572) followed by National Key Research and Development Program of China (1,562) and Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (1,187).

Table 1 Documents (99,150) by Scopus (9th May 2026)

	Year	*Source*	*Author*	*Affiliation*
1	2025 (5,343)	*Tribology International* (3,640)	Zhou, F. (320)	Chinese Academy of Sciences (2,831)
2	2024 (4,945)	*Wear* (2,606)	Dowson, D. (300)	Lanzhou Institute of Chemical Physics (2,163)
3	2023 (4,352)	*Journal of Tribology* (2,120)	Guo, F. (255)	Ministry of Education of China (1,970)
4	2022 (4,175)	*Tribology Transactions* (1,866)	Luo, J. (233)	Tsinghua University (1,685)
5	2021 (3,942)	*SA SAE Technical Papers* (1,837)	Liu, W. (199)	University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (1,015)

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Table 1 Documents (99,150) by Scopus (9th May 2026) (continued)

	Year	*Source*	*Author*	*Affiliation*
6	2020 (3,565)	*Industrial Lubrication and Tribology* (1,399)	Spikes, H.A. (197)	Xi'an Jiaotong University (992)
7	2019 (3,450)	*Part J. Journal of Eng. Tribology* (1,316)	Hartl, M. (176)	Imperial College London (872)
8	2018 (3,326)	*Tribology Letters* (1,235)	Martin, J.M. (166)	CNRS Centre National de la Rech. Scientifique (850)
9	2017 (3,136)	*Lubricants* (1,062)	Bair, S. (156)	Qingdao University of Technology (831)
10	2016 (2,760)	*Mocaxue Xuebao Tribology* (910)	Khonsari, M.M. (154)	University of Leeds (786)
	Country	*Type*	*Area*	*Funding support*
1	China (24,809)	Article (74,895)	Engineering (69,290)	National Natural Sci. Found. of China (10,572)
2	USA (15,347)	Conference paper (16,853)	Materials sci. (42,555)	National Key Res. and Dev. Program of China (1,562)
3	India (6,218)	Review (3,527)	Physics and astr. (29,614)	Fundamental Res. Funds for the Central Univ. (1,187)
4	UK (5,918)	Book chapter (1,689)	Chemical eng. (9,286)	National Science Foundation (1,181)
5	Japan (5,716)	Note (614)	Chemistry (7,556)	China Postdoctoral Science Foundation (754)
6	Germany (4,169)	Conference review (410)	Energy (6,098)	Engineering and Physical Sc. Research Council (749)
7	France (2,813)	Letter (307)	Medicine (6,000)	Chinese Academy of Sciences (688)
8	Italy (1,879)	Short survey (245)	Mathematics (5,308)	D. Forschungsgemeinschaft (604)
9	Canada (1,708)	Book (235)	Computer sc. (5,046)	Natural Science Foundation of Shandong Province (602)
10	Russian Fed. (1,511)	Editorial (149)	Environmental sc. (3,956)	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (561)

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