

Microsymposium

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Making crystal structure an everyday thing – crystallography365 and beyond

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To the public, the concept of crystal structures can be very abstract. Despite the fact that we are surrounded by crystalline materials, most people struggle to see the value in the work we crystallographers do. However, kick started by the International Year of Crystallography 2014, a number of projects have been undertaken to show the value of crystallography to public audiences, such as the world's largest crystal structure [1] and the series of video's produced by the UK's Royal Institution [2].

Here, a foray of crystallographic communication into the blogosphere is presented. 'Crystallography 365' was a project which blogged about a different crystal structure every day in 2014 [3]. Using the abundant available databases of structure and a group of contributors whose experiences spanned all crystallographic disciplines, 365 structures were drawn and described (A 366th was subsequently added to allow its use in leap years!). The goal of the project was to present the wide range of uses crystal structures have to a broad spectrum of sciences, and to provide an outlet for this group of (mainly early career) scientists to engage with International Year of Crystallography. Since 2014, the blog has reached 150,000 people (90,000 since the end of 2014) and is now featured as an on-going resource on both the IUCr main webpage and IYCr legacy page [4].

[1] Krickl, R. <http://worldrecord.r-krickl.com/en/> accessed 2017-02-10

[2] <http://www.richannel.org/collections/2013/crystallography> accessed 2017-02-10

[3] <http://www.crystallography365.wordpress.com> accessed 2017-02-10

[4] <http://www.iycr2014.org/learn/crystallography365> accessed 2017-02-10



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