Nihon Reoroji Gakkaishi, the Journal of the Society of Rheology, Japan, has reached the milestone, the 50th volume. We wish to rejoice with all the current and past members of the society in this memorable event. The first issue of our journal appeared in 1973 in conjunction with the founding of the society. In the greeting for the first issue, Professor Masao Horio\textsuperscript{1)}, the founding president, expressed his pleasure at the launch of the journal. He described the role that the journal should play: to disseminate Japanese rheological research both domestically and internationally, introduce the situation overseas to the members, and enlighten knowledge through review articles and commentaries. These missions naturally came from the success of the 5\textsuperscript{th} International Congress on Rheology in Kyoto. (Remarkably, the Japanese rheologists organized the event before the foundation of the Japanese Society of Rheology.) Although the second one has been somewhat diminishing in recent years with the development of the internet and online publishing, the missions have been fulfilled by significant efforts by society members. In this article, let us retrospect the journal’s history according to some records to express our respect for the accumulated contributions.

In our journal, we combine the bulletin and the scientific articles, and the latter part is available on-line\textsuperscript{2).} As seen in the table of contents on the web, one volume has been published each year, and each volume contains four issues before volume 30. The later volumes consist of 5 issues with a few exceptions. The total number of published articles is more than 1500 in 210 issues up to the volume 49, as seen in Fig. 1. However, only a part of the accumulated papers is listed in the scholarly article databases like Web of Science (WOS) and Scopus. For instance, in WOS, we can find less than 900 papers from our journal.

The main reason of the discrepancy between the number of published papers and the number of listed papers in the database is that the databases are not complete, and they are still working to accommodate old documents. Apart from this external one, we have two issues: the journal name and the writing language of published papers. Concerning the journal name, “Nihon Reoroji Gakkaishi (日本レオロジー学会誌)” is unmistakable for Japanese speakers, meaning the Journal of the Society of Rheology, Japan. However, the spelling would be somewhat complicated for people who are not familiar with the Japanese language. Indeed, in the database, we can find some variations like Reoroji Aakkai, Reoroji Bakkai, Reoroji Gskkai, Reoroji Kakkai, etc. Besides, around 100 papers are seen in the database with the journal name in English: Journal of the Society of Rheology Japan. The citations with these variations are not correctly accumulated. This problem

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![Fig. 1 Accumulation of published papers in Nihon Reoroji Gakkaishi.](image-url)
is hopefully being solved because DOI now specifies the articles.

The other critical reason is the writing language. As seen in Fig. 1, until volume 18, the journal mainly published the articles written in Japanese due to the editorial policy in the early period. At that time, the founding members worked to raise awareness of rheology in the Japanese community and to gain society members. For such sakes, most of the articles in the early volumes are attractive reviews for a variety of rheological studies, including bio-rheology, chemo-rheology, and industrial rheology. Some pieces were also seen to exhibit advanced topics discussed in the rheology meetings (レオロジー討論会). Concerning the writing language, the number of English papers was limited. The notable contributor in this period is Prof. White, who published nine articles in our journal.

Figure 1 indicates the drastic transition in the publication number of English papers around volume 20. This change seems induced by the beginning of literature databases, which provide quantities nowadays used to evaluate researchers, journals, and even societies. For instance, the Chemistry Citation Index, the predecessor of WOS, was launched in 1992, and PubMed was open to the internet in 1997. The citation-based evaluation brought our journal into a difficult situation. On one hand, we must publish original research papers written in English to be indexed in databases. On the other hand, we must keep enlightening knowledge to the Japanese community by reviews and commentaries written in Japanese. Besides, our journal must be a platform for Japanese researchers who wish to publish their works in Japanese for some reasons. Because non-Japanese speakers rarely cite these Japanese articles, such a bilingual editorial policy reduces the journal impact factor, which is always less than unity for our journal.

Due to the problems mentioned above, the articles published in our journal are registered in the literature databases only partly at this time being. Thus, we cannot obtain complete statistics for the performance of our journal. Nevertheless, we will see some numbers for the papers published in the last decades in what follows. Figure 2 shows the yearly citation numbers from WOS for the articles published from 1997 to 2020. There is a clear uprising trend, and the total citation number is more than 2400 for ca. 900 papers.

Even though the statistics in WOS are incomplete, the most cited articles are worth exhibiting. Table I shows the top 3 articles. The top two papers are from the same group and written by Prof. Tatsumi, now in Kyushu University. Because the tackled problem, which is the rheology of cellulose fiber suspensions, attracts scientific and industrial interests even

| Title                                                                 | Authors       | Year | Citations |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------|-----------|
| Effect of fiber concentration and axial ratio on the rheological properties of cellulose fiber suspensions | Tatsumi, D; Ishioka, S; Matsumoto, T | 2002 | 101       |
| Effect of particle and salt concentrations on the rheological properties of cellulose fibrous suspensions | Tatsumi, D; Ishioka, S; Matsumoto, T | 1999 | 27        |
| A model of neck-in phenomenon in film casting process                | Ito, H; Doi, M; Isaki, T; Takeo, M | 2003 | 25        |

Fig. 2  Number of yearly citations given by WOS.
nowadays, the publications will accumulate further citations.

We note that the list of most accessed articles is entirely different from the most cited ones, as shown in Table II. Here, the number of accesses to the article PDF from September 2019 to July 2021 is exhibited. The paper at the first position is on rheometry reported by Professor Mori in Hosei University. This paper frequently appears on the front page of the journal website as the most accessed article. However, such a remarkable number of accesses is not reflected to the citation number in WOS. This discrepancy is because the article is written in Japanese and not read worldwide. It also implies that most readers for this practical topic would be in the industry and are not interested in writing articles. At the third position, we have the informative commentary by Professor Miura in Iwate University. This specific article is one of the consecutive lecture series, and the total number of accesses for the entire series is more than 16000.

The statistics for our journal are, unfortunately, inferior to the other related journals. Table III exhibits the total number of papers in WOS, average citation number per item, and h-index for the journal, as of August 2021. According to these numbers, the performance of our journal is the worst among rheology journals. Since our journal is for the local rheology society, it would not be comparable to global ones like the Journal of Rheology. As a journal for the regional organizations, Korea-Australia Rheology Journal (KARJ) is an excellent benchmark, which we would emulate. The Korean Society of Rheology often invites outstanding rheologists worldwide to their society meeting for lectures, and they ask such people to submit at least one article to KARJ. This clever strategy nicely works.

Meanwhile, our score is similar to Sen-I Gakkaishi (繊維学会誌) and Kagaku-Kogaku Ronbunshu (化学工学論文集), which are published by the Society of Fiber Science and Technology, Japan (繊維学会), and by the Society of Chemical Engineers, Japan (化学工学会). These Japanese journals share the challenging situation, and they all struggle to play their roles. Some Japanese societies have separated the

Table II  Most accessed articles in J-STAGE as of Aug. 2021.

| Title | Authors | Year | Access |
|-------|---------|------|--------|
| B型粘度計及び振動粘度計による種々の流体の見かけ粘度測定 | Mori, T; Moriyama, S; Nagakawa, T; Tsubaki, J | 2017 | 14816 |
| Measurement of apparent viscosity of various fluids by using B-type and vibration-type viscometers | | |
| 一方向強化CFRP材における繊維直角方向のヤング率の評価 | Adachi, H; Hasegawa T | 2002 | 4118 |
| Evaluation of Transverse Young’s Modulus of Unidirectional Carbon Fiber Reinforced Plastics | | |
| 食品レオロジーのおもしろさ | Miura M | 2014 | 3369 |
| The fun of food rheology | | |

Table III  Journal statistics acquired from WOS as of Aug 2021.

| Journal | Articles | Av. citation | h-index | Period |
|---------|----------|--------------|---------|--------|
| Nihon Reoroji Gakkaishi | 938 | 2.6 | 16 | 1997- |
| Journal of Rheology | >4200 | 27 | 135 | 1978- |
| Rheologica Acta | >3600 | 20 | 104 | 1975- |
| Applied Rheology | 837 | 4.4 | 28 | 1996- |
| Korea-Australia Rheology Journal | 594 | 8.9 | 28 | 2002- |
| Sen-I Gakkaishi | 3444 | 1.2 | 19 | 1996- |
| Kagaku-Kogaku Ronbunshu | 5034 | 2.8 | 25 | 1980- |
| Kobunshi Ronbunshu | 5047 | 2.5 | 26 | 1974-2019 |
The editorial team constantly works to collect articles to sustain the journal. The editorial process obeys the scientific standard in which all the scientific articles submitted to our journal are subjected to peer-review and plagiarism checking. We should greatly appreciate the kind cooperation by the anonymous reviewers, who always provide critical and valuable comments. The acceptance ratio in these years is ca. 70% on average. (The invited articles are excluded from the calculation.) We also appreciate the Japan Science and Technology Agency. We publish our articles online on their J-STAGE platform, and the readers can browse them free of charge. Besides, we do not charge the manuscript processing fee to the authors. But the policy may change due to the financial situation of the society.

The published papers are automatically nominated for the best paper award, given to less than two papers a year. The award was founded in 1999, and the anonymous jury makes the selection. The list of awardees can be seen on the journal website. From 2018, to have the submission from young researchers, we have established the submission encouragement award. This award is given to Ph.D. candidates or early career researchers who perform well in selected meetings. The award winner is asked to submit a manuscript within a year to the journal. The purpose of this award is to induce further submissions from these promising researchers. In a similar context, in this memorial issue, we have the number of invited review articles from the active young rheologists on a large variety of topics. We expect that these review articles will improve the citation statistics.

Finally, to appreciate the great efforts accumulated by the past editorial members, we show the journal’s editors-in-chief in Table IV. We must recall that 15 to 20 board members worked with each EIC, as the separate page exhibits the list of current editorial board members.

To conclude this short report, the editorial team again expresses sincere appreciation to all the contributors, reviewers, and readers. Let us ask the society members for further cooperation to sustain our valuable platform to our society.

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