

# The Numbers Are Up for *GSA Today*

Analyzing the numbers for 25 years of *GSA Today* science articles (1991–2015)

leads to some interesting statistics, including top page views and top citations. Some science articles have become hot topics, as seen either by number of citations or number of page views.

## Page Views

*GSA Today* reaches a wide and diverse audience. All articles are open-access online. The highest year for page views was 2012, with 54,512 views so far (html files only, does not count abstract or PDF views; see Fig. 1 and Table 1). The paper with the greatest number of page views is “An anthropogenic marker horizon in the future rock record,” by Patricia L. Corcoran et al., from June 2014 (v. 24, no. 6, p. 4–8) (see Fig. 2).

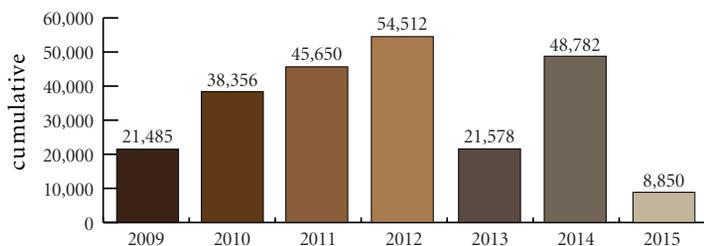


Figure 1. *GSA Today* science article page views per year (cumulative). Total: 239,213. (Google Analytics data for full-article html files only; data were not recorded prior to 2009.) The number of manuscripts per year varies; see Table 2.



Figure 2. June 2014 *GSA Today* cover featuring the top-most viewed *GSA Today* science article of all time (30,598 views), due in part to the wide media coverage it received, including articles in *LiveScience*, *Science*, *Scientific American* (podcast), *The New York Times*, *The Weather Channel*, *Hawaii Tribune Herald*, *Fox News* (video and interview with one of the authors), *CBS News*, the *Huffington Post*, *Forbes*, and *American Scientist*. Links to media coverage of *GSA* science are online at [www.geosociety.org/news/scienceNews.htm](http://www.geosociety.org/news/scienceNews.htm).

## Citations

Since its premier in 1991, *GSA Today* has generated a large proportion of citations considering that only one peer-reviewed science article is published per issue. The top year for citations was 1997, with 1,660 (see Fig. 3). The paper with the greatest number of citations is from April 1997: “Global Seismic Tomography: A Snapshot of Convection in the Earth,” by Stephen P. Grand et al. (v. 7, no. 3, p. 4–7) (see Fig. 4). For science article totals per year, see Table 2.

Other highly cited articles include 2008’s “A geological and geophysical context for the Wenchuan earthquake of 12 May 2008, Sichuan, People’s Republic of China,” by B. Clark Burchfiel et al. (v. 18, no. 7, p. 4–11), with 538 citations. This article is also unique because it appeared in print less than two months after the event (see Fig. 5).

The second most-viewed article is “The evolution of creationism,” by David R. Montgomery (v. 22, no. 11, p. 4–9), with 18,398 page views so far (per Google Analytics data for 2009–2015 only).

For a full list of *GSA Today* science article statistics (to be updated quarterly), go to [www.geosociety.org/gsatoday/](http://www.geosociety.org/gsatoday/) and click on the “View Statistics” button.

Table 1. Most Viewed Science Articles 2009–2015

Month /year	Article	Page views*	Avg. time on page	Cites
Aug. 2015	“Pleistocene relative sea levels in the Chesapeake Bay region and their implications for the next century”	3,369	2 min, 54 sec	0
June 2014	“An anthropogenic marker horizon in the future rock record”	30,598	4 min, 24 sec	25
Feb. 2013	“Miocene rejuvenation of topographic relief in the southern Appalachians”	3,650	4 min, 24 sec	49
Nov. 2012	“The evolution of creationism”	18,398	6 min, 36 sec	3
Jan. 2011	“Microbial communities in fluid inclusions and long-term survival in halite”	16,435	2 min, 4 sec	66
Apr./ May 2010	“The digital revolution in geologic mapping”	10,206	3 min, 23 sec	51
Sept. 2009	“The Portland Basin: A (big) river runs through it”	5,635	4 min, 25 sec	12

*Note:* Google Analytics and Google Scholar Data obtained 4 Feb. 2016.  
 \*HTML page views only; no PDF data available.

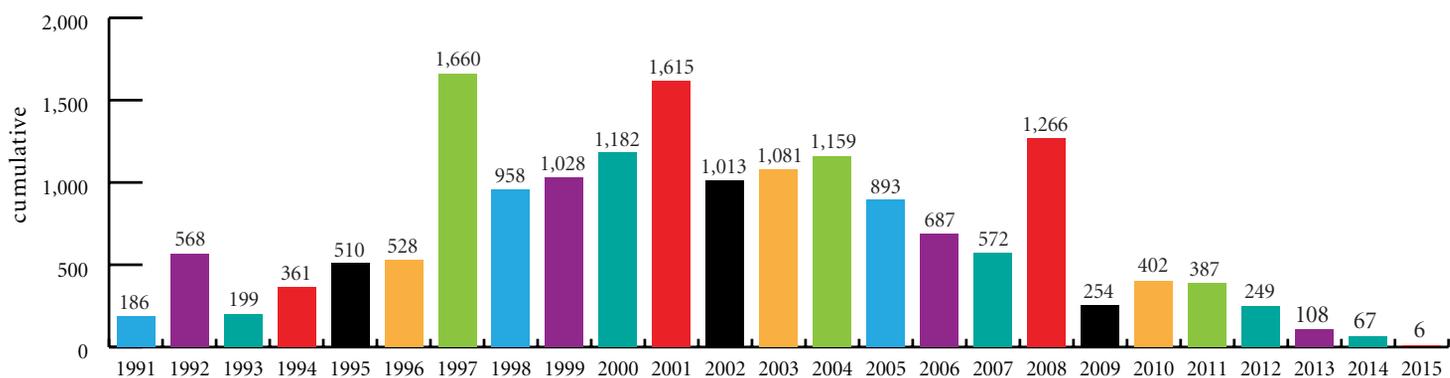


Figure 3. GSA *Today* science article citations per year. Total: 16,937. Google Scholar data, Jan. 2016.

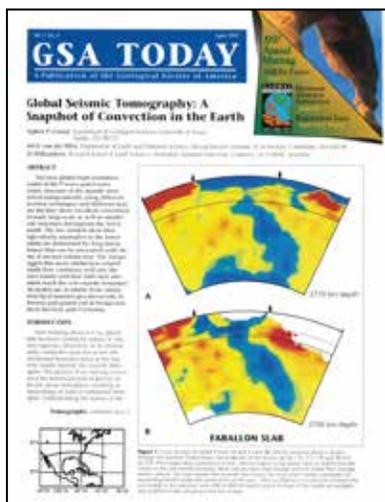


Figure 4. April 1997 cover featuring the top-most cited *GSA Today* science article of all time (828 citations).

Table 2. Number of science articles per year

2015	9
2014	10
2013	8
2012	11
2011	14
2010	11
2009	10
2008	10
2007	10
2006	9
2005	10
2004	8
2003	9
2002	10
2001	12
2000	12
1999	11
1998	13
1997	11
1996	11
1995	11
1994	11
1993	11
1992	9
1991	11

Note: Total: 262;  
average: 10.48.

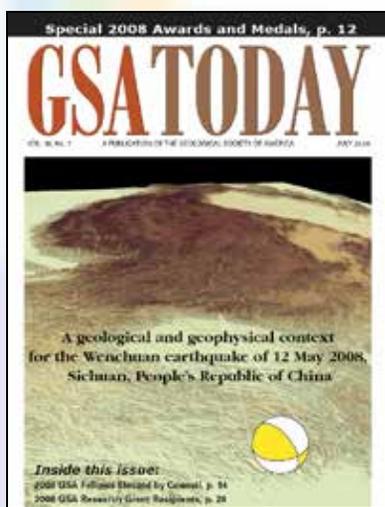


Figure 5. July 2008 cover featuring the fastest to-press science article.