



Fading Shades of Gray?

ACS Meeting Preprints,
Past, Present, Future

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Pet. Chem. 2006, 51 (1&2), xxxx***



What is a Meeting Preprint anyway?

- ✓ **“Extended Abstract” is more accurate**
- ✓ **Not in the sense of a journal preprint (e.g. ArXiv)**
- ✓ **1-3 pages with graphics and some references**
- ✓ **Eventual submission as journal article often assumed**

ACS Divisional Preprints

Division	Started	Ended
PETR	1937 (1921)	Merged 2012
PMSE	1940	
FUEL	1957	Merged 2012
POLY	1960	2012
ENVR	1961	2008
ENFL	2012	








Preprints: Past Examinations

- ✓ **Division of Chemical Literature: Symposium on Divisional Preprints, 142nd National Meeting, 1962**
- ✓ ***Chemical & Engineering News* report, 9/17/62**
- ✓ ***J. Chem. Doc.*, 3, 1963 (reports)**

Preprints: Perceived Advantages

- 😊 **Members get “handy” copies of papers**
- 😊 **Increased attendance, membership**
- 😊 **More discussion; less lecturing in meetings**
- 😊 **Aids members in choosing meetings to attend**
- 😊 **Wider dissemination**
- 😊 **Better organization, higher quality papers**
- 😊 **Historical: publication outlet for divisions lacking journals**
- 😊 **Division revenue stream**

Preprints: Perceived Disadvantages

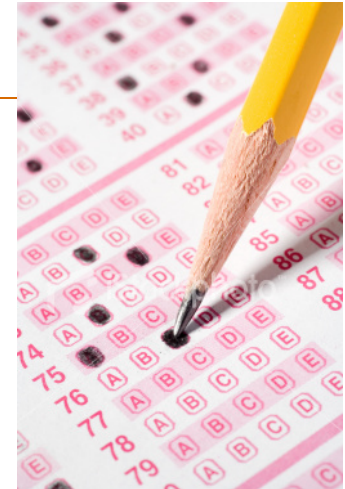
-  **Less editorial quality control; no peer review**
-  **Author resistance**
-  **Earlier submission deadlines**
-  **Journal editorial policies on prior publication**
-  **More work for division staff and volunteers**
-  **Higher dues and/or minimal ROI**
-  **Distribution challenges and costs (e.g. subscription fulfillment, third-party coordination)**

2010 FUEL/PETR Member Survey

- ☑ **Designed to gather opinion on delivery format(s)**

- ☑ **29% response rate (N=683)**

- ☑ **79% claimed they had read division preprints in last 5 years**
 - **47% preferred online + CD-ROM**
 - **42% preferred online-only**



2010 FUEL/PETR Member Survey

Members were not asked whether preprints should be retained after ENFL merger.

Pro/Con sentiments gleaned from 108 open-ended comments:

- Keep the preprints: 3**
- Dump the preprints: 15**

Other recurring comments:

- “No paper no podium” policy a deterrent to membership/ submission**
- Preprints have outlived their usefulness**
- Many respondents unaware of online availability**

Issues for Wider World

- ? **Discovery**
- ? **Access**
- ? **Low citation rates**
- ? **Bibliographic control (title/name changes, CASSI vs OCLC, etc.)**
- ? **Long term preservation**
- ? **Fulfillment problems after print ended**
- ? **Few libraries subscribe(d)** (5 OCLC holders of ENFL CD)

Discovery: Then and Now

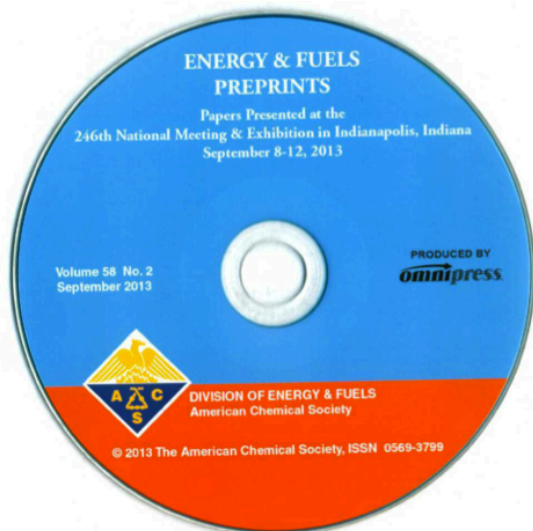
- ✓ **Original CA indexing policy: Preprint abstracted ONLY if journal article based on it did not appear within 18 months of meeting.**
- ✓ **Arguments not to index them at all due to ACS journal pre-publication policies**
- ✓ **CAS now indexes all preprints routinely and promptly**
- ✓ **Web of Science does not index preprints.**



Formats

Division	Print	CD-ROM	ACS Proceedings (Members)	ACS Proc. Institutional?	Open Access
ENFL		2012- (Curran)	2012-		
FUEL	1957-2002	2003-12	1957-2012		1957-2004
PETR	1937-2005	2006-12	1956-2012		

The Dreaded CD-ROM



- ☹️ **Reduced subscription base after print ceased; no (reliable) subscription options**
- ☹️ **CDs don't work well on all platforms**
- ☹️ **Embedded search software obsolete or non-functional**
- ☹️ **File numbers \neq Paper numbers**
- ☹️ **Not an archival format: loss, degradation, damage**

Online Access Shortcomings

ACS Division Proceedings Online

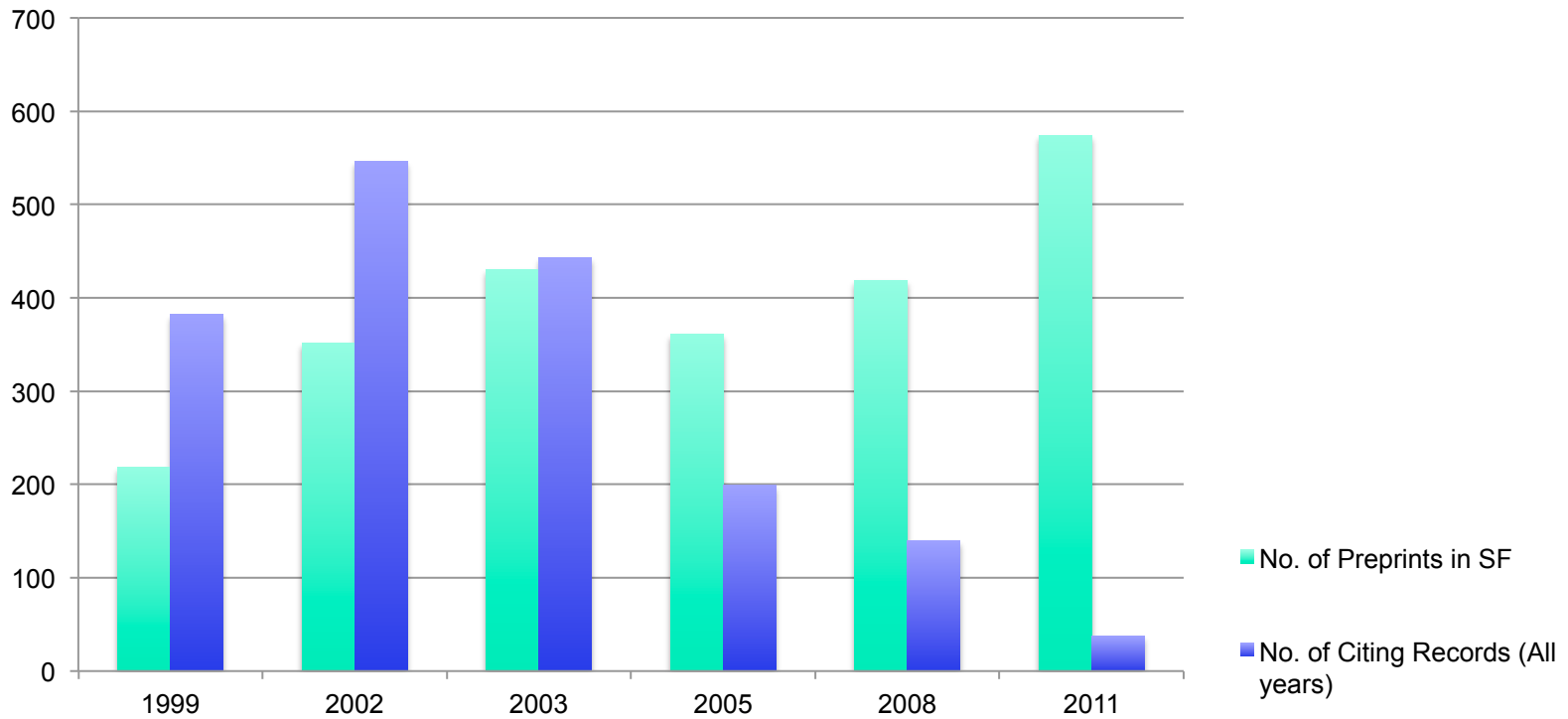
- ✓ **No institutional access to ENFL**
- ✓ **Reduced subscription base after print ceased**
- ✓ **No article-level linking from SciFinder via link resolvers**
- ✓ **No DOIs**
- ✓ **CASSI title differs from OCLC title(s)**
- ✓ **ACS Proceedings platform lacks vol/issue/pagination data**
- ✓ **Browse only by meeting/symposium, not paper numbers**

Copyright Conundrum

“Each volume of the Proceedings is copyrighted, as a whole, by the American Chemical Society, and by the respective ACS Technical Division. Rights to individual papers remain with the author(s). Thus, permission of the original author is required for reproduction of material appearing in these volumes. The Proceedings should be cited as the origin of the material.”

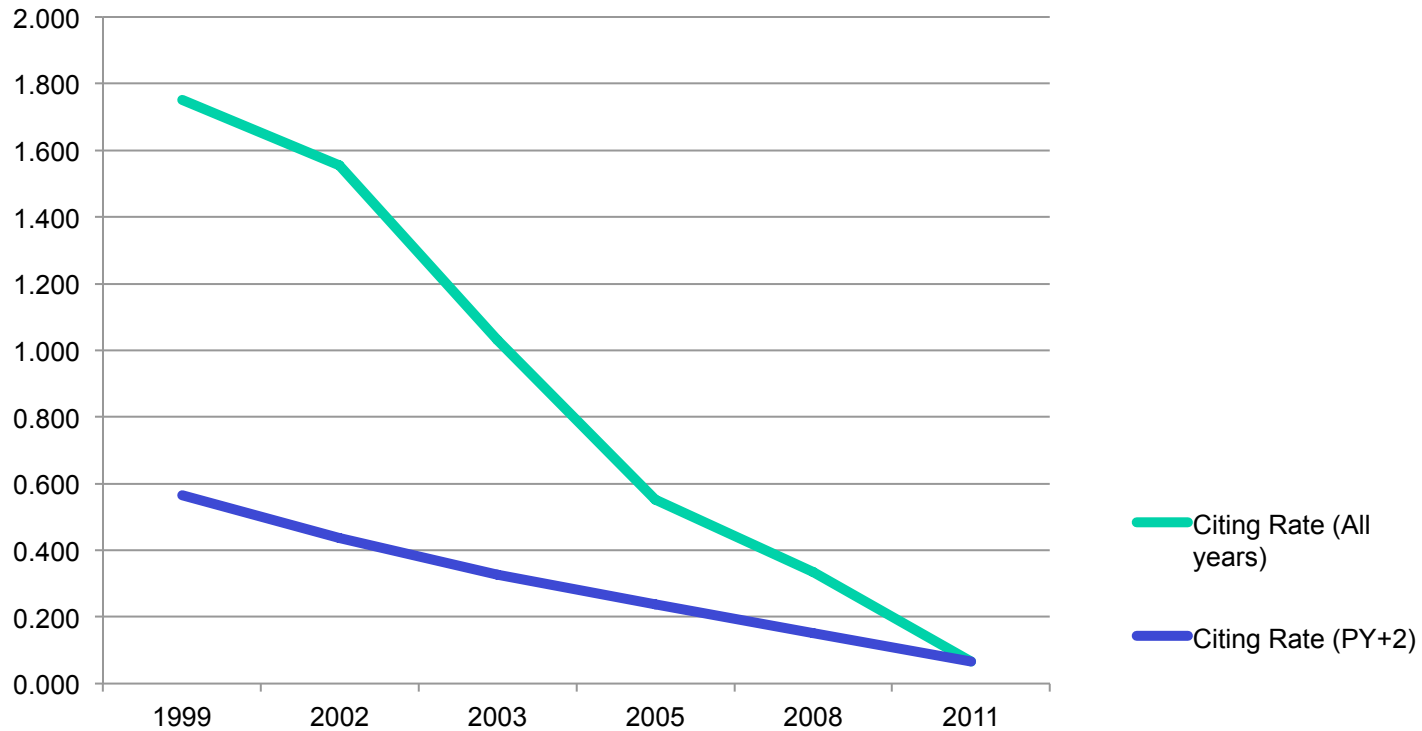
Citation Metrics

FUEL



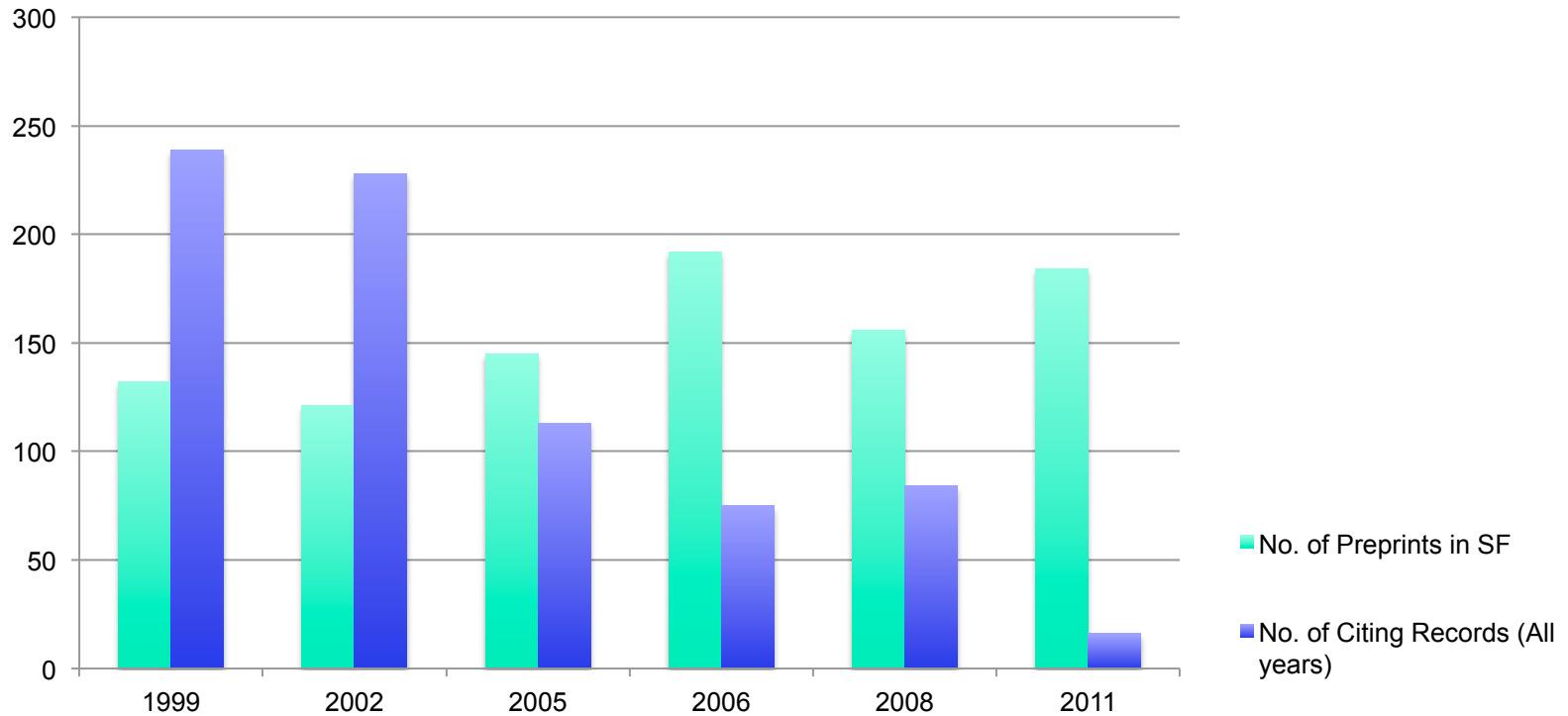
Citation Metrics

FUEL: Citing Rate



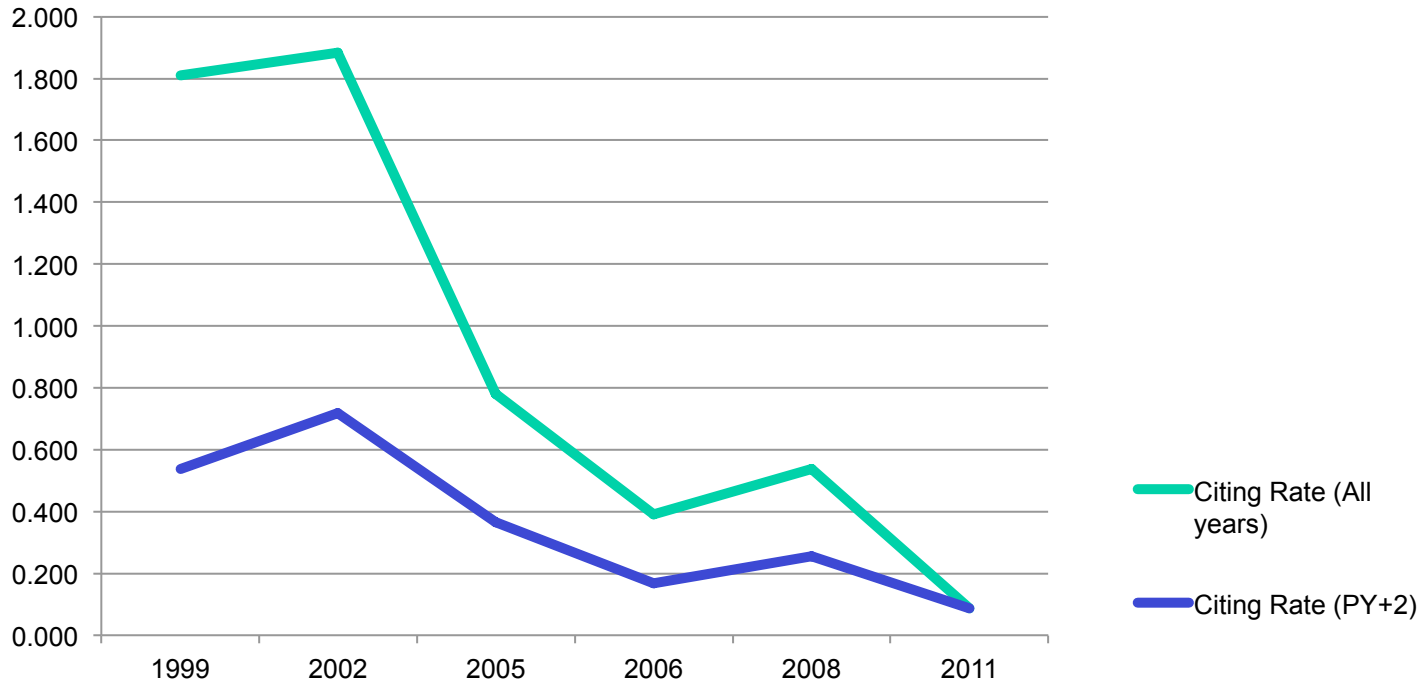
Citation Metrics

PETR

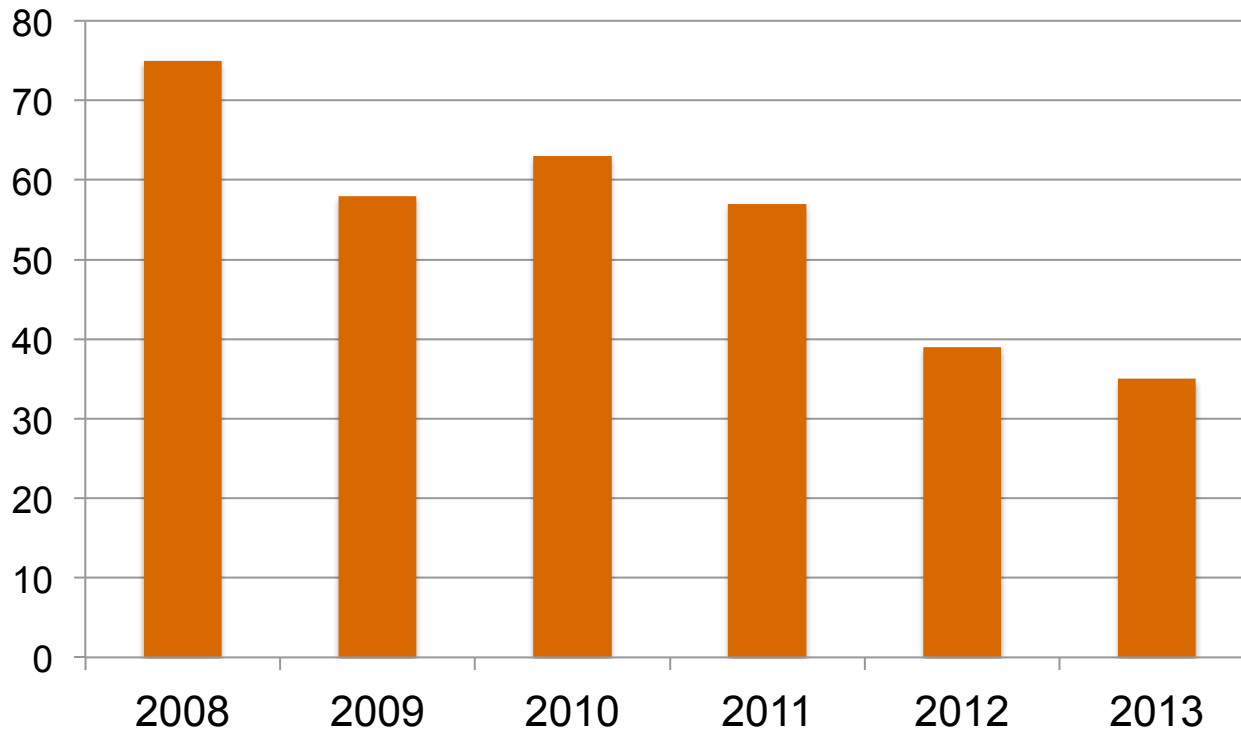


Citation Metrics

PETR: Citing Rate



ILL requests filled by IXA (All formats)



ACS Pubs Press Release, Sept. 2013



ACS Divisional Proceedings

ACS Publications is no longer offering
subscriptions to ACS Divisional Proceedings >>>

Many of the ACS' technical divisions will be discontinuing the production of Divisional Proceedings. As a result, beginning January 01, 2014 ACS Publications will no longer offer institutional subscriptions to the ACS Divisional Proceedings. Institutional customers who retained a subscription to one or more of the ACS Divisional Proceedings throughout 2013 will continue to receive online electronic access at no charge to the all of proceedings to which they subscribed and had access in 2013. To minimize any inconvenience to our customers, this level of access will be maintained indefinitely while ACS Publications and Divisions explore options for managing this valuable content into the future.

Unsolicited Advice...

- **OPEN ACCESS!**
- **CDs are so 1999...**
- **Stable web hosting (IR?)**
- **Think beyond the Division**
- **Survey members about actual needs going forward; don't get stuck in the past.**
- **Accept input from librarians**

Questions for the Future

- **What is the place of preprints in the literature now?**
- **If preprints go extinct, who will preserve the archive?**
- **Ephemeral or permanent?**
 - “I personally would recommend against stocking these in your library, as I can't imagine they are of any value to you.” -- *Division Officer, in personal email*
- **Can librarians help?**

Questions?



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<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/chem/info/gray.html>