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Concentrated content: *TAPPI Journal* special issues create research visibility



You may have noticed that *TAPPI Journal* often brings readers special focused issues from time to time. Over the years, these issues have covered a range of topics, including [wet-end technology](#), [recovery cycle](#), [foam forming](#), [coating](#), [additives](#), [biorefinery](#), [nanotechnology](#), [lignin](#), [pulp](#), [recycling](#), [university research](#), and more.

TAPPI Journal's special issues, which are open access like all of the journal's content, are important for a variety of reasons. For one, they allow in-depth examination of a particular field and bring together different perspectives on the topic, inviting comparison and advancing knowledge. They also focus on emerging research that can motivate further studies to answer unresolved questions and address gaps in current research. In addition, special issues also offer great visibility for authors whose careers are often centered around a specific field.

Another reason that special issues are important is that they can serve as a valuable educational resource for students, researchers, and those working in the issue's focus area. For students and young researchers, they offer the opportunity to establish themselves as authors and experts in a focused peer group. In addition, our special issues typically gain the most visibility and ultimately citations for the authors.

Creating special issues in *TAPPI Journal*

TAPPI Journal's special issues are curated by a *TAPPI Journal* editorial board member (EBM) or a group of EBMs who are experts in the area of the special issue. The EBM may also enlist the help of an outside expert who acts as a guest editor. A guest editor may help the EBM solicit papers, handle reviews, and make decisions on accepting the papers for publication.

TAPPI Journal's papers are selected in a variety of ways. An EBM may directly contact leading researchers in the focus areas and request that they create a paper for the special issue. Another way is for the EBM to assess conference papers, either before or after they are presented, and then contact the author to determine if they are interested in participating. An EBM may also choose to reach out to a specific research institution or university to feature their overall research focus, such as occurred with [SUNY-ESF](#) and [South China University of Technology](#).

For authors, participation involves having the paper undergo peer review, including additional peer review for conference papers, even if they were previously accepted by the conference technical program. The EBM organizer and/or guest editor choose appropriate peer reviewers and then decide whether papers must be revised.

The cover of the special issue features an image related

In coming months, you will see special issues in *TAPPI Journal* on a range of topics that include barrier coating, flexible packaging, paper physics, pulping, testing of coating-related paper properties, and select papers from the Iberoamerican Congress of Pulp and Paper Research (CIADICYP).

to the topic, which may come from artwork in one of the papers or be created by the EBM. In addition to providing excellent visibility, past issues have been very well received and have yielded several winners of the [TAPPI Journal Best Research Paper Award](#) and Honghi Tran Prize, such as the 2023 winning paper, “[Pilot scale black liquor concentration using pressure driven membrane separation](#),” which came from a special [TAPPI PEERS Conference issue](#).

Looking toward future special issues

Overall, special issues contribute to the advancement of scientific knowledge by offering a concentrated, timely, and collaborative platform for addressing specific research themes. In coming months, you will see special issues in

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Getting involved

If you or your organization, university, or research institution have an idea for a special issue of *TAPPI Journal* and would like to participate as a guest editor, please reach out to mshaw@tappi.org. As always, there are no fees to publish, the journal is open access, and authors retain copyright. **TJ**

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