Special Issue

Accessory Minerals in Earth Sciences: Contemporary Trends

Message from the Guest Editors

An accessory mineral is defined as a mineral that typically makes up no more than 1% of a rock. It does not necessarily indicate one particular mineral species, as thousands of minerals could potentially fall under that definition. However, only a very limited number are found in high abundance. Additionally, many accessory mineral phases are sensitive recorders for pre-, syn- and post-formational processes. They can also be indicators for the behavior of specific elements, especially trace elements. Usually, they are complex in terms of their chemical and isotopic composition, and their structural state as well.

State-of-the-art research in Earth sciences is increasingly being driven by new progress in analytical capabilities. The study of accessory minerals has thus increased exponentially during the past twenty years and is ever increasing. Highly specialized and advanced techniques of analyses with increasing resolution and precision, both on separated mineral phases and in situ, make them powerful tools for different fields of the Earth sciences, from U-Pb geochronology to provenance studies, petrochronology, petrology, etc.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 December 2021)

Minerals

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Impact Factor 2.2
CiteScore 4.4

mdpi.com/si/74348

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Minerals welcomes submissions that report basic and applied research in mineralogy. Research areas of traditional interest are mineral deposits, mining, mineral processing and environmental mineralogy. The journal footprint also includes novel uses of elemental and isotopic analyses of minerals for petrology, geochronology and thermochronology, thermobarometry, ore genesis and sedimentary provenance. Contributions are encouraged in emerging research areas such as applications of quantitative mineralogy to the oil and gas, manufacturing, forensic science, climate change, geohazard and health sectors.

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