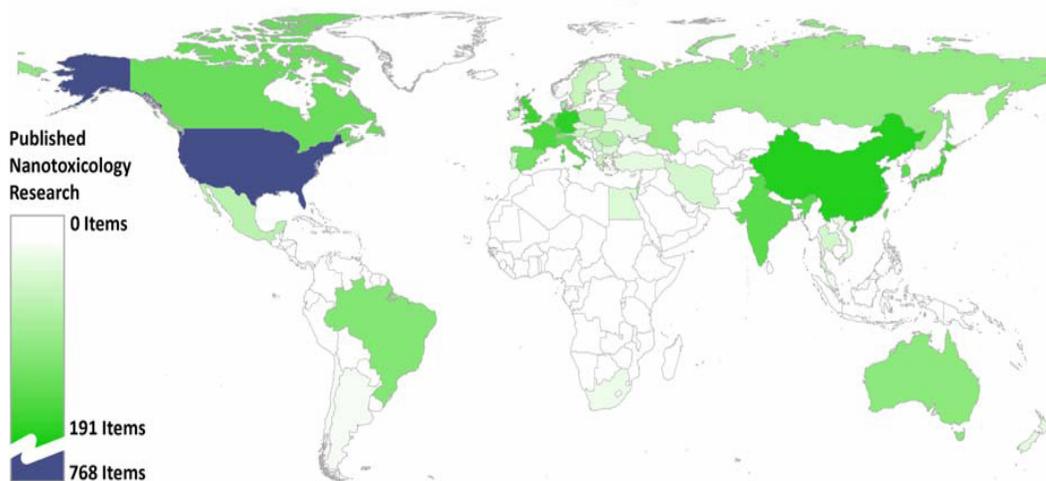


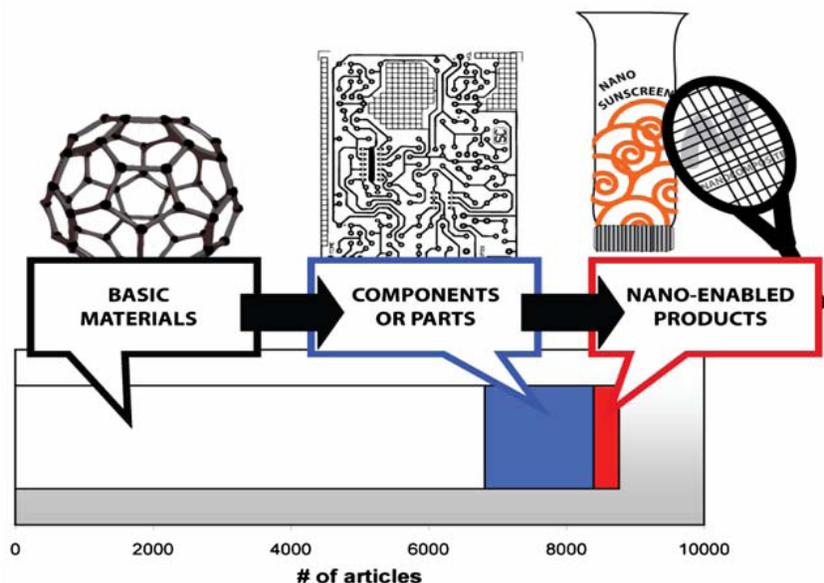
Characterizing the Scientific Literature on Nanotoxicology

Assessing the state of knowledge about nanotoxicology is an important step in promoting comprehensive understanding of the health and environmental implications of nanomaterials. Researchers at the Center for Nanotechnology in Society, based at the University of California, Santa Barbara, employed bibliometric techniques to characterize the prevalence and distribution of the current scientific literature. The nanotoxicological literature is dispersed across a range of disciplines, sub-fields and countries. The figure below shows the country of origin and number of publications.

Global Distribution of Nanotoxicology Scientific Literature



The literature is currently focused on basic materials, on acute toxicity and mortality, and on *in vitro* studies on mammalian models but not consumer products, chronic exposure, or morbidity. Most articles do not specify an exposure pathway, and there is little research on environmental fate. These findings provide a baseline account of peer-reviewed nanotoxicology publications and identify gaps, which have significant implications for experts, regulators, and the public.



* Basic material research is assigned to categories like "inorganic materials" and "particle phenomena". Components are articles that are categorized as substances in a specific environment or processes. Products are those categories such as "food" and "materials and products". Some articles are placed in multiple categories.

Ostrowski, A.D., T. L. Martin, J. Conti, I. Hurt, B. H. Harthorn. 2009. Nanotoxicology: characterizing the scientific literature, 2000–2007. *Journal of Nanoparticle Research* 11(2): 251–257. doi: 10.1007/s11051-008-9579-5

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