



The Sol-Gel Gateway

You have heard that sol-gel science is a solution-based processing route to solid oxides materials and you are now interested in more detailed information? To find useful sources can be quite tedious and time-consuming, especially if you use the standard search routines in the web, which will give you an excess of nonweighted information in more than 30000 hits.

Already this shows one of the dilemmas in sol-gel science. It not only involves chemistry, physics, materials

science, and engineering, but it can also be performed with almost every element in the periodic table and the material can be processed as a film or coating, fiber, bulk or powder; this requires knowledge of the physics of the different processing routes. Hence, a flood of information is available.

The sol-gel gateway definitely helps to organize this chaos. It provides an opportunity for chemists, physicists, materials scientists, and engineers to interact, exchange, and gather information on sol-gel related topics. The site at www.solgel.com was designed by Michel Prassas (Corning, Inc.) and is supported by an international editorial board. Do not mistake it with www.sol-gel.com which will take you directly to the homepage of a sol-gel-related company.

The starting page of the sol-gel gateway is very well structured with an attractive layout. The middle section is focused on general information and sol-gel related topics by presenting feature articles, sol-gel laboratories, and other news from the scientific world. The selection is somewhat arbitrary, but

nevertheless appealing, through its diversity, and definitely worth reading.

More detailed information is given in the section "Topics". The visitor can choose between general information such as "who's who" within the sol-gel community, a list of research groups all over the world, links to journals and more educational subjects, and last but not least, the commercial side of sol-gel science with a link to different suppliers and an employment center. In addition, one can find useful announcements and

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advertisements of sol-gel-related conferences. The amount of commercial advertisement on the page is appreciably low.

A chat forum is available, in which questions can be asked. It is very pleasing to see that well recognized scientists participate. In addition, a search routine is provided and news in sol-gel technologies, the latest sol-gel papers, and patents can be accessed. A sol-gel glossary introduces the visitor to the most frequently used terms in sol-gel science.

Besides minor flaws such as loading problems with some figures in the tutorials, the sol-gel gateway is definitely a highly recommendable, very attractive, and useful site not only for people from inside the sol-gel community, but also for newcomers and people who are interested in background information on the basics of sol-gel chemistry and physics or the processing of the final material. Visit and see!

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For further information visit
<http://www.solgel.com/>
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