

Research Trends

Volume 1
Issue 39 *Emerging indicators and standards for
research assessment*

Article 7

12-1-2014

Did you know?

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Recommended Citation

van Weijen, Daphne Dr (2014) "Did you know?," *Research Trends*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 39 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://www.researchtrends.com/researchtrends/vol1/iss39/7>

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Section 6:

Did you know... about the many scientific uses of origami?

Dr. Daphne van Weijen

The traditional Japanese art of paper folding, origami, enables those who use it to produce objects or models from sheets of paper without the use of scissors or glue (1). The most famous example of origami is the Japanese Crane. But did you know that the origami folding technique is also used in scientific research?

A quick search of Scopus.com revealed that there are 1,351 documents indexed in Scopus that contain the term origami in their titles, abstracts or keywords. These are almost all articles, reviews and conference papers, from a wide range of disciplines, including Engineering, Computer Science, Biochemistry, Genetics, Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Materials Science, Physics, Chemical Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine.

The most interesting examples of the variety of uses of origami in science include the use of the Origami Cleft Lip technique in Plastic Surgery (2), and RNA and DNA folding techniques based on origami in Biology and Genetics research (3, 4).

References:

1. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Origami>
2. Boo-Chai, K., Tange, I. (1970), The origami cleft lip, *British Journal of Plastic Surgery*, volume 23, Issue C, 1970, Pages 248-253.
3. Williamson, J.R. (1994) RNA origami, *Nature Structural Biology*, Volume 1, Issue 5, May 1994, Pages 270-272.
4. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DNA_origami