

Web alert

Online journals

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In an ideal world, a library would have subscriptions to all of the chemistry and biology journals published, allowing library users access to every paper of interest. Unfortunately, with an ever increasing number of journals, rising print costs and budget cutbacks, this isn't possible. The internet, however, is beginning to provide a solution.

Online publishing is growing at a rapid rate (the number of electronic journals has increased 15-fold since 1991), and is changing the concepts of both a journal and a library. Almost all journals now use the Web in some way (minimally posting Tables of contents and abstracts), and many offer full text

of all articles to subscribers. Another advantage of internet publishing is the time from acceptance to print of a paper can be dramatically reduced, as papers can be published online one at a time as soon as they are ready, rather than waiting for a full issue to be compiled. *Chemistry & Biology* and other Current Biology Ltd journals use the 'Continuous Publication System', and all of the American Chemical Society journals operate on the ASAP (as soon as publishable) principle. Articles and journal formats are also likely to change as a result of online publishing, as length of individual articles is less of a problem electronically — several journals now publish 'Supplementary material' related (but not essential) to a given paper in the online version, and there are even a few electronic-only journals.

Useful sources for locating online journals include the BioMedNet and ChemWeb libraries, where *Chemistry & Biology* can be found. One advantage of these two libraries is that readers can purchase individual articles

instead of an online subscription to the journal. MEDLINE lists all the full text online journals it is linked to, and BioMedNet's Evaluated MEDLINE is now linked to many full text web journals both on and off BioMedNet. Stanford's library has a comprehensive list of electronic journals. HighWire Press was started within the walls of the Stanford University Library, and is involved in producing electronic versions of a number of high profile journals, including the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* and *Science's* online magazine. Science Direct is another 'library' that houses the electronic versions of Elsevier Science's journals, and the full text of Academic Press's journals can be found in the IDEAL Library.

As more and more journals put the full text of articles online, we move closer to being able to follow up citations within a paper by clicking on a link that takes you to the electronic version of a cited paper. A scientist's home computer will then be a terminal at the world's biggest library.

Web sites and URLs

	URL	Access details
Journals		
<i>Science</i>	http://www.sciencemag.org	Free access to TOCs and Abs; articles require subscription
<i>Nature</i>	http://www.nature.com	Only TOCs and Abs online, free access
<i>Journal of the American Chemical Society</i>	http://pubs.acs.org/journals/jacsat/	Requires online subscription to view TOCs, Abs and articles
<i>Biochemistry</i>	http://pubs.acs.org/journals/bichaw/	Requires online subscription to view TOCs, Abs and articles
<i>Proceedings National Academy of Sciences</i>	http://www.pnas.org	Free access to TOCs and Abs; articles require subscription
<i>Chemistry & Biology</i>	http://biomednet.com/cbiology/cmb	Free access to TOCs and Abs; purchase individual articles
<i>Molecular Cell</i>	http://www.molecule.org	Free access to TOCs and Abs; articles require subscription
<i>EMBO Journal</i>	http://www.emboj.org	Free access to TOCs and Abs; articles require subscription
<i>Nucleic Acids Research</i>	http://www.oup.co.uk/oup/smj/journals/titles/nar/	Free access to TOCs and Abs; articles require subscription
<i>Structure</i>	http://biomednet.com/cbiology/str	Free access to TOCs and Abs; purchase individual articles
Other useful sites		
BioMedNet	http://biomednet.com	Articles in library can be purchased individually
ChemWeb	http://chemweb.com	Articles in library can be purchased individually
Stanford's list of electronic journals	http://marine-stanford.edu/HMSweb/ejournals.html	
HighWire Press	http://highwire.stanford.edu	Free access to TOCs and Abs in library
Science Direct	http://www.sciencedirect.com	
American Chemical Society Publications Division	http://pubs.ac.sorg/	Current TOC and Abs free; articles and previous TOCs require online subscriptions
IDEAL library	http://www.idealibrary.com/	

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