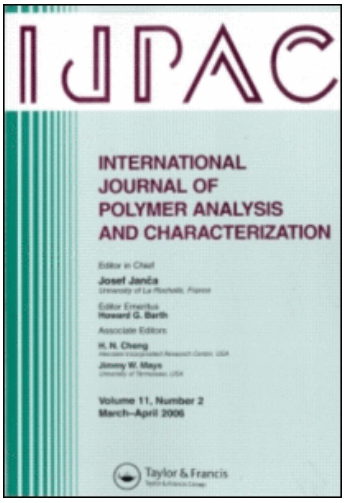

International Journal of Polymer Analysis and Characterization
Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713646643

Damon D. Ridley. *Information Retrieval: SciFinder*

Ondej Fabián[a]
[a] Tomas Bata University in Zlín,

Online publication date: 19 November 2010

To cite this Article Fabián, Ondej(2010) 'Damon D. Ridley. *Information Retrieval: SciFinder*', International Journal of Polymer Analysis and Characterization, 15: 8, 544
To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/1023666X.2010.520907
URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1023666X.2010.520907

International Journal of Polymer Anal. Charact., 15: 544, 2010

ISSN: 1023-666X print
DOI: 10.1080/1023666X.2010.520907

Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis Group

BOOK REVIEW

Damon D. Ridley. *Information Retrieval: SciFinder*, 2nd ed. 2009. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons Ltd. 214 p. ISBN: 978-0-470-71245-0. Reviewed by Ondřej Fabián, Tomas Bata University in Zlín. E-mail: fabian@knihovna.utb.cz

Quick and effective information searching is very important in all science branches. This need is even more obvious in chemistry, which sees very dynamic growth. Researchers need not only information in the form of scientific articles, but also factual information, e.g., on chemicals, compounds, and reactions. That sets high requirements for search platforms chemists use to access scientific information.

A state-of-the art product in this area is SciFinder, offering comprehensive databases both bibliographic and factual. A great majority of resources in SciFinder are produced by CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service), a division of the American Chemical Society. This platform also offers advanced tools for working more comfortably with the system. Damon D. Ridley in his book focuses in detail on every option offered by SciFinder. Even though he writes in the introduction that the book is more succinct compared to the previous edition, his work can be considered a comprehensive guide of every part of SciFinder. The book deals with the web version of the SciFinder platform (there is also a version that must be installed on the user's computer as a client program).

The core of the bibliographic part of the platform is the famous CAPLUS (Chemical Abstracts Plus) database containing over 30 million bibliographic records of articles and patents. A less-known fact is that the prestigious medical database Medline is also a part of SciFinder. The author goes over searching these databases, including advanced search tools and techniques, in great detail. The same goes for factual databases offered by SciFinder, in particular CAS Substance Database, CAS Chemical Reaction Database, CAS Chemical Catalog Database, and CAS Regulatory Information Database.

Information Retrieval: SciFinder is a guide to maximize the output of SciFinder information content. It contains a great number of search query examples accompanied by extensive image material. Advanced system functions are given great attention (e.g., drawing chemical compounds), which chemists will undoubtedly appreciate. The book has its merits for both researchers in chemistry and information specialists. Chemists can learn basic and advanced search techniques, while information specialists will improve their understanding of the information needs of chemists. A reader who will study this book carefully and try mentioned procedures in practice should become a qualified user of the SciFinder platform.