

## Book Reviews

---

**How To Find Chemical Information: A Guide for Practicing Chemists, Educators, and Students, 3rd Edition.** By Robert E. Maizell. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. 1998. xxiii + 515 pp. 16 × 23 cm. ISBN 0-471-125792. \$64.95.

This book is an updated version of the first two editions which emphasizes information-searching techniques and skills that can be applied to any information resource including print, CD-ROM, and the Internet. This reference book is organized into 18 chapters. The chapter titles illustrate the contents and utility: 1. Basic Concepts; 2. Information Flow and Communication Patterns in Chemistry; 3. Search Strategy; 4. Keeping Up to Date: Current Awareness Programs; 5. How to Get Access to Articles, Patents, Translations, Specifications, and Other Documents Quickly and Efficiently; 6. Chemical Abstracts Service: History and Development; 7. Essentials of *Chemical Abstracts* Use; 8. Selected Other Abstracting and Indexing Services of Interest to Chemists; 9. Some United States Government Technical Information Centers and Sources; 10. Online Systems and Databases, the Internet, CD-ROMs, and Related Topics; 11. Reviews; 12. Encyclopedias and Other Major Reference Books; Journals; 13. Patent Documents (with a Brief Section on Trademarks); 14. Environment, Safety, and Related Topics; 15. Locating and Using Physical Property and Related Data; 16. Chemical Marketing and Business Information Sources; 17. Process Information; and 18. Analytical Chemistry: A Brief Review of Some of the Literature Sources. Also Appendix C: Tabulation of Selected Representative Online Databases That Are of Interest to Chemists and Chemical Engineers and Appendix D: CAS Online Databases Available from Major Hosts (Vendors) Used in the United States are potentially useful.

Chapter 1 opens with the statement "A premise of this book is that the effective, regular use of appropriate printed and electronic chemical information sources is an essential key to achieving success in research and development and other functions in the profession of chemistry and chemical engineering." The author then proceeds to identify and elaborate upon appropriate chemical information resources and how to use them. This book is intended to be a practical "how-to" book which covers information sources that cover wide ranges of chemical information for many chemistry subdisciplines as well as many more narrow subdiscipline-specific journals and databases. Specific to aspects of medicinal chemistry, there is much that is very useful regarding organic chemistry, including heterocyclic chemistry and some on natural products chemistry. Other topics like drug design do not seem to have been included.

Overall this book can serve as a useful guide to the extensive and widely varied chemical information resources. It certainly should be included in all industrial and academic libraries, and many research chemists will benefit from their own copy, while some students could find the price too high to own their own copy. This is a very useful book which is quite up-to-date and practical.

**Bruce L. Currie**

*Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Chicago College of Pharmacy  
Midwestern University  
555 31st Street  
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515*

JM980662N

10.1021/jm980662n