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A review of: “The Eilstein Online Database: Implementation Content and Retrieval, Edited By Stephen R. Heller, Acs Symposium Series No. 436, Washington, Dc, 1990. Price: \$34.95”

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THE BOOK CORNER

THE BEILSTEIN ONLINE DATABASE: IMPLEMENTATION CONTENT AND RETRIEVAL, Edited by Stephen R. Heller, ACS Symposium Series No. 436, Washington, DC, 1990. Price: \$34.95.

This book contains ten chapters submitted by the speakers at a symposium on numerical databases in chemistry held at the 198th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society (Miami Beach, September 1989). It is the first book in print to discuss the features and use of the online version of the Beilstein Handbook of Organic Chemistry which became available near the end of 1988. Just as the information available through Beilstein is valued for its accuracy because it is evaluated by trained chemists rather than merely reported, so is the information contained in this book very useful since it represents the experience of actual users. The book also contains excellent descriptions of the types of information available in the database and of how to access only the portion of interest to the individual user. It is worth noting that the Beilstein database contains the actual data about organic compounds not just literature references and that for this reason it should become the first source for all who seek such information. This book will be very valuable in helping both chemists and librarians make the transition to the "new Beilstein" which is no longer just a reference for the organic chemist. The book should be available in every library.

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