

Special Libraries Association Materials Research & Manufacturing Division

Polymer Roundtable – SLA 2003

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Selected Resources for Business & Market Information on Polymers & Plastics

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General Resources

Polymer acronyms

- Plastics.com glossary (<http://www.plastics.com/acronyms.php>)
- Matweb.com Acronym list (<http://www.matweb.com/reference/abbreviations.asp>)

SIC/NAICS Industry classifications

- Most useful when searching company and association directories. The NAICS system has officially replaced SIC; however, not all directories or databases have yet made the switch.
- U.S. Census Bureau official NAICS site (<http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html>). Searchable by keyword.
- SIC vs NAICS industry codes for specific areas of plastics fabricating, provided by Society of the Plastics Industry, SPI (<http://www.socplas.org/industry/attach.htm>)
- HarrisInfo (<http://www.harrisinfo.com>) publishes hardcopy and online directories with detailed plastic product index. Good alternative to NAICS/SIC classification.

Trade Magazines

Chemical Week (<http://www.chemweek.com>)

- "Product Focus" in each issue
- Covers one major commercially-produced polymer or chemical
- Snapshot listing current pricing, outlook, technology, producers

Chemical Market Reporter (<http://www.chemicalmarketreporter.com>)

- "Chemical Profile" in each issue
- Covers one major commercially-produced polymer or chemical
- Typically lists producers, demand, growth, pricing, uses, and outlook

Plastics News (<http://www.plasticsnews.com>)

- Provide customizable industry rankings and lists, “FYI” charts/tables
- Email alerts available: (1) Daily news update and (2) Weekly Materials Pricing/News update

Modern Plastics (<http://www.modplas.com>)

- February “Resins Review” issue contains many articles on the state of the industry and future directions

Associations

American Plastics Council

(<http://www.americanplasticscouncil.org/benefits/economic/economic.html>)

- Publishes the Monthly Resin Report breaking down production and sales data by end market
- The Resin Review, an annual statistical report of the U.S, Plastics Industry
- Provides links to other major polymer & plastic associations - http://www.americanplasticscouncil.org/top_level/links.html

International Institute of Synthetic Rubber Producers

(<http://www.iisrp.com/publications.html>)

- Publishes annual Worldwide Rubber Statistics guide providing broad coverage of natural and synthetic rubbers

Other hardcopy resources

RAPRA Review Reports

- RAPRA (Rubber and Plastics Research Association)
- Hardcopy only, twelve published per year
- Contains (1) State-of-the-art review, (2) Comprehensive list of citations and abstracts from the RAPRA database
- Covers trade magazines and technical literature
- Recent report titles: *Styrenic Copolymers*, *Biopolymers*, *Polymers in Building and Construction*

Online Databases

Many industry trade magazines are indexed in full-text databases available through online vendors, including:

- **Business & Industry (B&I)**
- **Chemical Business News Base (CBNB)**
- **CIN (Chemical Industry Notes)**
- **EBSCO’s Business Source Elite/Premier**
- **PROMT/IAC**

Other databases contain only citations, but have international coverage

- **RAPRA - Rubber and plastics abstracts**
- **PIRA – Plastic/paper packaging, printing, publishing**

SRI’s Chemical Economics Handbook (CEH)

- Good first stop for resin and end-product data and industry updates

- Available through SRI as hardcopy/online subscription, or through Dialog
- SRI offers a no-cost "Power" search on their website of all subscription reports (<http://ecom.sric.sri.com/PSUser/psadvqry.htm>)

TableBase / World Market Share Reporter

- Tablebase available through Dialog & Lexis-Nexis
- World Market Reporter published annually in hardcopy, also online through Lexis-Nexis.
- Both index tabular data, including business and market data
- Cover many trade magazines and consultant reports

"Bonus" resources

2002 Polymer Roundtable presentations

(<http://www.sla.org/division/dche/2002/confschedule.html>)

- Kathy Longaberger of Goodyear Tire presented a good technical introduction to polymers
- CAS also provided an overview on locating polymer information in STN

Paint Titles – Paint Research Association, UK

(<http://www.pra.org.uk/painttitles>)

- Paint Titles is a weekly current awareness service on coatings, adhesives and inks
- Includes sections on market news and statistics

Adhesion Society Literature Review

(http://www.adhesionsociety.org/literature_review.htm)

- Semi-annual compilation by Dave Speth (Dow Chemical)
- Reviews of new technical literature related to adhesion & adhesives

PIRA's Packaging Channel (<http://www.pirapackaging.com>)

- Provides the PIRA database mentioned above, covering many trade journals specific to Europe
- Also publish market reports on plastics packaging and packaging technologies
- Free email alerts on worldwide packaging news

TRPackaging (<http://www.trpackaging.com>)

- Primarily serves as a business portal for industry professionals
- Email alerts for new articles on plastics & packaging
- Access to a database of international news and trade articles on plastics packaging, some translated articles

Petrochemical Processes 2003

(<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/contents/publications/hp/>)

- Annual reference book of flow diagrams and descriptions of many petrochemical processes, including polymers (polyolefins)
- Also included in the March issue of Hydrocarbon Processing