
SLA Chemistry Division E-Newsletter

Winter 2004
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From the Editor's Desktop

A big thanks to all those that contributed to this issue by providing articles that are published here and a special chemistry themed issue of *Sci Tech News*.

The transition Gary Wiggins has made from the Chemistry Library at Indiana University to the School of Informatics, gives us a chance to learn about Chemical Informatics. And I'm always grateful to people who gather lists of good resources so thanks to Linda Shackle, Bartow Culp & Ben Wagner for sharing their knowledge.

Tina Chrzastowski shares a bit about her library and the person our professional development award is named for – Marion E. Sparks. There is still time to apply for the award so spread the word to anyone you know that might be eligible.

We are always concerned about adding new people to our profession and Susanne Redalje shares her thoughts on recruiting. Hopefully this along with some recent (Jan) discussion on CHMINF-L under the subject line of "Challenge for Chemists" about the skills and training a chemical information professional needs, will spur some thoughts about the future of our profession.

As always, we need contributors, so please consider sending in a article or news about your projects. And you might even want to be the next newsletter editor starting with the Summer 2004 issues.

Marilynn Dunker
dunker.mj@pg.com

SLA Chemistry Division E-

Newsletter is a publication of the Chemistry Division of the Special Libraries Association. It is published in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. It is available at the Chemistry Division website, <http://www.sla.org/division/dche/chemdiv.html>

The contents of articles and editorials should not be construed as being or representing the official position of the Division. Portions of the Newsletter may be printed without permission as long as the source is clearly acknowledged. Special Libraries Association (SLA) assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors to the Associations' publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official positions of SLA.

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The Editor welcomes readers' contributions. Items wanted include: Articles of interest to the community of chemistry librarians, book reviews for new reference materials, citations for new journals, accomplishments & accolades for the Member's Corner and website recommendations for "Beyond the Web of Chemistry." If you have something you would like to contribute, please contact the Editor or send it via e-mail as a text file or Word document.

2003-2004 deadlines
Fall 2003 – Oct. 5, 2003
Winter 2004 – Jan. 5, 2004
Spring, 2004 – April, 5, 2004
Summer, 2004 – July 5, 2004

Message from the Chair – Have Ticket, Will Travel

This issue includes many of the articles to be published in the forthcoming *SciTech News*. Special thank yous to those who heeded Marilyn Dunker's request to contribute your thoughts and articles for this issue featuring chemistry and related activities of the Chemistry Division. Chemistry information professionals around the world, including divisional members, share news and provide assistance to each other through CHMINF-L, the listserv managed by Gary Wiggins at Indiana University. To join CHMINF_L visit the Web site at: <<http://listserv@listserv.indiana.edu/archives/chminf-l.html>>



As Suzanne Fedunok noted in her November 2002 Chair's message to *SciTech News*, the division has been interested in extending conference participation beyond national meetings. Bill Armstrong agreed to investigate technical issues related to acquiring the necessary software and hardware for divisional Web conferences. He recently notified me that the software/hardware configuration has passed his and Dana Roth's testing and is ready for action. He provides an update in this issue.

As I concluded my message for *SciTech News*, I was in the midst of packing for Albuquerque, New Mexico for SLA's Leadership Summit held January 21-24. Joining me there were several other division officers and colleagues including Ted Baldwin, Treasurer, Dawn French, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, and Kathy Whitley, assisting with conference planning for Toronto in 2005, Bill Armstrong, and Shelley Arvin. I met with 2004 Conference Planners for finalizing programs and other activities for Nashville this June, and I hope that you have marked your calendar for this year's conference. Take a look at the preliminary program to see what's planned for Nashville. Are you using screen capture software to prepare Web tutorials for your users? Please consider sharing your experiences at the Conference by submitting a poster and contact Mary Ann Mahoney (mmahoney@library.berkeley.edu) by March 15.

A reminder to vote for SLA candidates, with ballots due by March 8. The midwinter meeting presented an opportunity to hear the candidates' speeches and the newly revamped Association Web site has candidates' statements at:

<http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/governance/bodsection/04bodcand.cfm>

As always, please contact me as you think of divisional or organizational concerns.

Marion Peters
Chair, SLA Chemistry Division 2003-04

Greetings from the Chair-Elect

Hi, Everyone!

We just got back from the Leadership Summit in New Mexico (January 21-24). We have begun our plans for the Toronto conference in 2005. We have topics for sessions and we have spoken to other divisions about collaborating on some sessions. Potential session topics include Green Chemistry, Properties Information, Forming a Career Strategy, Keeping Current with Chemical, Biology, and Science Library/Information Trends. In addition, we will also have the traditional sessions such as the Academic and Corporate Roundtables and the Winners Circle of Website



It's not too late to submit your suggestions and ideas for session topics, themes, speakers, and volunteers. Remember - this is your conference and your Division. Get involved! Even if you usually don't attend the conferences, still feel free to give your thoughts. You never know you just might be convinced to come. SLA is working on having hotels in Toronto with various price ranges.

Contact Kathy Whitley or I with your thoughts.

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Help Wanted: SLA Chemistry Division E-Newsletter Editor

Have you been looking for a way to contribute to the division? Acting as the e-newsletter editor could be the answer for you.

Please contact Dawn French (dawn.french@millenniumchem.com) if you are interested in being the Editor for this e-newsletter beginning with the Summer 2004 issue.

Questions about the work involved? Contact Marilyn Dunker, dunker.mj@pg.com

Division Web Conference Progress Report

The Chemistry Division will soon be ready to test its new Web Conferencing system, designed to help bring our conferences to those who aren't able to attend. Travel is difficult, expensive, and time consuming, and so we'd like to bring as much of the Annual Conference experience as we can to those who otherwise would not be able to participate.

The system employs vBulletin, a powerful message board, as the backbone, whose interface will feature the Chemistry Division's logo and look. Each conference will be divided into discussion forums relating to specific talks or presentations. The discussion board will provide links to these presentations, not only from the main conference page, but essentially all discussion pages, regardless of what forum one may be participating in at any given moment. The participant will always be able to link to the source material for any given program. Registrants will be able to set the look of their own screens to some degree, including the ability to set the time displayed on their Board, and to receive email notification whenever another user replies to his/her post/thread. Discussions, we hope, will be moderated by the original presenters/moderators at the Annual conferences.

Please stay tuned for future announcements about this new development.

Bill Armstrong, Louisiana State University, Email: notwwa@lsu.edu

2004 Nominating Committee Report

On behalf of the 2004 Nominating Committee of the SLA Chemistry division, I have the pleasure to present the slate of candidates for office in 2005.

Chair-Elect: Ted Baldwin - Corporate Librarian, Equistar Chemicals/University of Cincinnati
Ted Baldwin is a Corporate Librarian/Academic Director for University Libraries, University of Cincinnati. In this position, he manages the R&D Information Center for Equistar Chemicals, LP. Ted has been a member of SLA and the Chemistry Division since 1999, and is currently also a member of the Leadership & Management Division. Within the Chemistry Division, he has served as Treasurer, 2002/2004; and Moderator for the division poster sessions, 2001 and 2002 SLA annual conferences. At the chapter level, Ted has served as Treasurer, 2002/2004; Newsletter Editor, 2000/2002; and as a member of the Nominating Committee, 2001.

Message of acceptance from Mr. Baldwin:

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as Chair Elect for the Chemistry Division. I look forward to providing leadership in the coming years as I work to serve the diverse needs of the division's membership.

Treasurer: Kiem-Dung T. Da -- Physical Sciences Librarian, Oklahoma State University
Ms. Da is Physical Sciences Librarian at Oklahoma State University, a position she has held for the past five years. Before that, she worked for ten years in library technical services. She holds a

BA in Chemistry from the University of Fayetteville and an MLS from Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas. She is a new member of the Chemistry Division and last year she answered a call for volunteers and worked as a greeter at the very popular poster session. Ms. Da currently serves as treasurer of two organizations: Oklahoma State University Toastmasters and a local buddhdist organization.

Message of acceptance from Ms. Da:

It is an honor to work within this organization of dedicated professionals. I will do my best to serve it well.

I would like to thank Marilyn Dunker for serving on the committee and giving valuable input.

Suzanne Fedunok, Head, Coles Science Center, NYU-Bobst Library

Call for Posters: Special Libraries Association Annual Conference Nashville 2004

Are you using screen capture software to prepare Web tutorials? Are you creating training materials for your users to view at their workstations? If so, I'd like to encourage you to prepare a poster for the Chemistry Division's Poster Session at the SLA Annual Meeting in Nashville.

We are looking for posters that address your efforts in creating web-based tutorials, training modules or instructional programs. The poster session will be Monday, June 7th from 12:15-1:30 PM.

Following the poster session from 2 - 3:15 PM the Chemistry Division's "Vendor Update" will feature vendors of science information who will discuss how they create web-based products to educate our users and us, and vendors of software designed to facilitate the creation of these products.

Guidelines for materials and layout of poster presentations are available on the SLA Chemistry Division website at <http://www.sla.org/division/dche/chemdiv.html>

The deadline for submission of your poster title and abstract is March 15, 2004. I'd be more than happy to chat with you if you have any questions, just email me or give me a call.

Mary Ann Mahoney
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510.642.4345 (voice) or 510. 643.9041 (fax)

Chemistry Division Preliminary Conference Program, Nashville, June 5-10, 2004

The most up to date information can be found at the SLA Chemistry Division website, <http://www.sla.org/division/dche/chemdiv.html> or by visiting the SLA conference website at <http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/2004annual/index2.htm>

Saturday, June 5 8 am – 5 pm

Continuing Education: Ticketed event \$299 mbr/\$399 nibr

Chemistry for the Non-Chemist Librarian

Content: Any information scientist responsible for providing chemistry reference services must understand the basics of chemistry. This course includes:

1. An introduction to chemistry.
2. Basic concepts and research questions in organic, physical, inorganic, analytical, and biological chemistry.
3. An overview of how a chemists' research needs direct his or her information needs.

Professional Development contact: Judith Currano currano@pobox.upenn.edu

Saturday, June 5 6 pm

No Host Dinner (tba) for early arrivals

Local Nashville contact: Kitty Porter

Sunday, June 6 7:30-8:45 am

Ticketed event \$5

Academic Librarians' Roundtable (with Science & Technology and Biomedical & Life Sciences Divisions)

Content: This session allows academic librarians to discuss issues of interest to them. Continental breakfast included.

Sunday, June 6 11 am – 6 pm (Reception from 4-6 pm in Exhibit area)

Exhibits open! Visit the Exhibits/ Thank our sponsors!

Sunday, June 6 1-5 pm

Continuing Education: Ticketed event \$199 mbr/\$299nibr

Chemical Information Sources, Request and References

Content: This course teaches the types of questions that chemical researchers present to an information specialist and reference sources that can be used to answer them. Among other things, the course will cover types of reference sources in the chemical sciences, their access points, and the questions they are best equipped to handle.

Professional Development contact: Judith Currano currano@pobox.upenn.edu

Sunday, June 6 4-6 pm

Exhibitors Reception for Conference Attendees

Sunday, June 6 6-7:30 pm

DCHE Board Meeting I

Content: Chemistry Division board meeting with 2003-2004 officers, committee chairs, and functionaries.

Sunday, June 6 8-10 pm
ACS/CAS Reception for Chemistry and other science divisions

Monday, June 7 7:30-8:45 am
Ticketed event \$15

DCHE Business Meeting Breakfast

All division members are invited to attend the annual business meeting and breakfast. Meet other division members and the division officers, hear about division activities.

Monday, June 7 9-10:15 am
Opening General Session
Speaker: Dr. Carl S. Ledbetter

Monday, June 7 10:30 am-12 noon
Visit the Exhibits/ Thank our sponsors!

Monday, June 7 12:15-1:30 pm

Poster Session: Teaching Users via the Web-- Web-based Training and Instruction in the Sciences

Content: Web-based instruction is becoming more important as our users increasingly access library resources remotely and as distance education evolves. This session provides an opportunity to present and discuss efforts in assisting users at their desktops. Contact: Mary Ann Mahoney mmahoney@library.berkeley.edu **Deadline for submission of poster title and abstract: March 15**

Monday, June 7 2-3:15 pm

Vendor Update: Web Tutorials and Interactive Software

Content: Combo of vendors of science information discuss how they create web-based products to educate our users and us, and vendors of software designed to facilitate the creation of these products.
Moderator: Katherine M. Whitley

Monday, June 7 8-10 pm
Division Suite Open House

Come to the Division Suite and visit with other members.

Tuesday, June 8 9-10:15 am
Web Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 8 9-10:15 am
Instructional Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 8 10:30 am-12 noon
Visit the Exhibits/ Thank our sponsors!

Tuesday, June 8 12:15-1:30 pm

DCHE Corporate Roundtable

Content: Bring your "brown bag" lunch and meet other division corporate professionals for a lively discussion on current topics of mutual interest.

Moderator: Ted Baldwin

Tuesday, June 8 2-3:15 pm

Materials Science & Engineering; Past, Present, and Future -- "It's a Material World"

Speaker: Dr. John D. "Doug" Mackenzie

Content: This session provides an overview of the development of materials science and engineering; the contributions of chemistry, physics and other fields of engineering; and factors influencing its growth.

The future of materials science and its impact on education, industry and society will be discussed.

Tuesday, June 8 3:45-5 pm

Materials Information (a joint session with Materials Research & Manufacturing Division)

Content: Speakers panel of representatives from several materials research associations.

Wednesday, June 9 7:30-8:45 am

DCHE Board Meeting 2

Content: Chemistry Division board meeting with incoming 2004-2005 officers, committee chairs, and functionaries.

Wednesday, June 9 9-11 am

Closing General Session and Association's Annual Business Meeting

Speaker: Mr. Bill Ivey

Wednesday, June 9 1:15-2:30 pm

Winner's Circle of Best Science Websites (a joint session with Biomedical & Life Sciences, Environment & Resource Management, and Science & Technology Divisions)

Content: Members of DCHE, DBIO, DERM, and DST will highlight the best new or recently revised websites in their respective divisional subject areas.

Moderator: A. Ben Wagner

Entertainment

Grand Ole Opry

<http://www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylordopryland/entertainment/opry.cfm>

For tickets & info: 888-777-6779 www.opry.com

Showtimes: Fridays 6:30 pm & 9:30 pm

Saturdays 6:30 pm & 9:30 pm

Tuesdays 7 pm

*The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
Chemistry Library: Acknowledging our past, creating a
new future.*

By **Tina E. Chrzastowski**
UIUC Chemistry Librarian
and

Marion E. Sparks
UIUC Chemistry Librarian 1911 - 1929

The histories of our libraries often resonate in our buildings, our collections, and our shared experiences. Patrons of the UIUC Chemistry Library can witness a piece of our past in a plaque embedded in a prominent pillar, literally and philosophically holding up the library. It reads,

“She was their guide when they sought information but they
remember her best because she remembered them and
was their cheerful mentor, counselor and friend.”

No better words were ever written to describe the relationships we try to build as librarians; these words were written to describe Marion Emeline Sparks, the UIUC’s first Chemistry Librarian. The plaque was dedicated in 1929 following her untimely death and was sponsored “By Illinois Chemists of All Ages.” Much of what we know about the history of the UIUC Chemistry library comes from Marion Sparks’ articles. She contributed often to *Illinois Chemist*, a publication of the University’s Department of Chemistry. She wrote about the library, but also about student events and alumni anecdotes.

In 1922 Marion Sparks wrote a summary article, “The Chemistry Library, Its History and Use” for the *Illinois Chemist* (Vol. 6 number 4, p. 115 & 117). Portions of it are included here.

“The Department of Chemistry was the first on campus to have a separate library; sprinting from the Laboratory to the old main library...gave time for almost any reaction to spoil in some way; and the main library closed at 5 p.m. too. The works most often needed for reference, Beilstein, Richter and others, were borrowed from the main library in 1891-92 on the personal check of the head of the department and shelved in the balance room on the second floor of the laboratory. This was the first stage in the history of the chemistry library, and continued until the removal to the new building in 1903.

The second stage was the arrangement of a special room, marked Reading Room, being Room 201. Having a special room, the periodicals were nearly all transferred from the main library, and a card catalog was made, by copying the entries of the main catalog in an abbreviated form. Books bought for the department were now sent here.

The third stage in the history of the library began April 15, 1916, when the staff with extra helpers, rushed back from the matinee of the Union opera, to move into Room 257 [Noyes Laboratory, a brand new addition that for the first time included space

designed for the Chemistry Library]; the door was opened formally at 7:45 a.m., April 17; that evening the Council of the American Chemical Society met in the new library.”

Very little has changed in the library’s physical history since its move to 257 Noyes Laboratory in April 1916. Although walls have moved to take over laboratory space and an entire lower floor was added to corral growing journal collections, the original molding, windows, tall ceilings and thick walls remain. Cast iron shelving, immovable but decorative, dominates the original library space. All this will soon change as plans are made to move from our address of nearly 90 years to the first floor of Noyes Laboratory.



The “fourth stage” (to follow Ms. Sparks’ historical thread) is scheduled to begin within the next two years. New undergraduate organic laboratories are to be created and old ones remodeled, taking over nearly the entire second floor of Noyes Lab, displacing the Chemistry Library. New space on the first floor has been identified for the library, where it will be easier to find and “remodeled” for the first time since 1916. The past 90 years have seen many changes in how chemical literature is used and accessed, and the new space will incorporate the features a 21st Century student expects, including comfortable chairs, group study areas, instructional space, wireless technology and few onsite print journals (replaced by extensive online backfiles). Some traditional elements will remain as well, including a circulation desk, monographs, a browsable current periodical collection, and a “cheerful” librarian. Ms. Sparks’ plaque is moving with us too; we think she would approve.

There’s still time to apply for the
2004 Marion E. Sparks Award for Professional Development

The award provides a \$1500 stipend to attend the 2004 SLA Annual Conference in Nashville, TN, held June 5-10, 2004. For more details see the division website at <http://www.sla.org/division/dche/sparks.html>

The deadline is March 15, 2004.

Questions? Contact Svetlana Korolev, skorolev@uwm.edu

What is Chemical Informatics?

**By Dr. Gary Wiggins
Director of the Program in Chemical Informatics
Indiana University School of Informatics.**



You say that you understand *bioinformatics*, but not *chemical informatics*?

To a certain extent, chemical informatics is the chemical counterpart of bioinformatics, but the term is considerably broader in its scope of activities in chemistry. Chemical informatics is the application to chemistry of computer technology in all of its manifestations. Various known as cheminformatics, cheminformatics, or even cheminformatics, the field is just beginning to be recognized as a subdiscipline of chemistry. There are some universities in Europe that offer graduate training in cheminformatics and even a few in the United States.¹ One of those is the program in the School of Informatics at Indiana University, where I recently made the transition, after 27 1/2 years as a chemistry librarian, from Head of the IU Chemistry Library to Director of the Chemical Informatics Programs.

To help us gain some insight into the field of chemical informatics, let's look at the work of Dmitry Mendeleev, who in some respects might be considered a forerunner of today's chemical informaticists. Faced with a large amount of data in which there were many gaps in understanding, Mendeleev identified patterns where none was obvious. He accurately predicted properties of unknown chemical substances, based on the observed properties of known substances. Mendeleev thus made one of the greatest chemical discoveries of the 19th century, and, coincidentally, created a great visualization tool--the periodic table of the elements. Long before the invention of the computer, Dmitry Mendeleev applied some of the key methods from the chemical informaticist's toolbox: pattern recognition and data visualization.

It is the manipulation, coordination, and/or coding of data (some of it organized, but also much unstructured data) that tends to distinguish informatics from library or information science. Chemical informaticists often work with massive amounts of data. They construct information systems that help chemists make sense of the data, attempting to accurately predict the properties of chemical substances from a sample of data, as did Mendeleev. Thus, through the application of information technology, chemical informatics helps chemists investigate new problems and organize and analyze known scientific data, including traditional literature sources, to develop novel compounds, materials, and processes.

Much of the current use of cheminformatics is in the drug industry. Indeed, an early attempt to define the field is linked solely to drug discovery. In 1998, Frank Brown defined chemical informatics as "...the mixing of information resources to transform data into information and information into knowledge, for the intended purpose of making decisions faster in the arena of drug lead identification and optimization."²

An article on the field of chemical informatics appeared in the September 12, 2002 issue of *Nature*. The author notes that just as the genomics boom caused a great need for

bioinformaticians, “an explosion in the amount of data generated by combinatorial chemistry and other high-throughput approaches to drug screening and drug design is creating a demand for chemoinformaticians.”³ People who work in chemical informatics may concentrate on molecular modeling, chemical structure coding and searching, chemical data visualization, or a number of other areas of specialization. Indeed, the various computer graphics codes for chemical structures that let us both view and search chemical structures via computer were developed by chemical informaticists. Methods and tools used in cheminformatics include:

- Structure/Activity or Structure/Property Relationships (QSAR, QSPR)
- Genetic Algorithms
- Statistical Tools (e.g., recursive pairing)
- Data Analysis Tools
- Visualization Techniques
- Chemically-Aware Web Language (CML).

There are a few recent textbooks in chemical informatics, as well as some good reference materials.⁵⁻⁹ Two of the major journals in the field are the *Journal of Chemical Information & Computer Sciences* (ACS) and the *Journal of Molecular Graphics and Modelling* (Elsevier). Former editor of the *Journal of Chemical Information & Computer Sciences*, George W.A. (Bill) Milne, distinguished in his placement of articles in the journal the following four sub-areas of chemical informatics:

- Traditional chemical informatics topics
 - Text Searching
 - Structure and Substructure Searching
 - Databases
 - Patents
- Chemical Computation
 - Quantum Mechanics
 - Statistics (regression, neural nets, etc.)
 - QSAR, QSPR
 - Graph Theory
 - DNA Computing
- Molecular Modeling
 - 3D Structure Generation
 - 3D Searching (pharmacophores)
 - Docking
- Biopharmaceutical Computation
 - Drug Design
 - Combinatorial Chemistry
 - Protein and Enzyme Structure
 - Membrane Structure
 - ADME (absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion)-related Research.

Obviously, a good knowledge of chemistry and excellent facility in computer science are required to be an effective practitioner in the cheminformatics field. Chemical and

pharmaceutical companies are in great need of people with such skills. "Pharmaceutical industries are contending with an explosion in data generated by combinatorial chemistry and the avalanche of information spilling from the Human Genome Project. Making sense of it all is a formidable task--one that's crying out for more scientists well versed in bio- and cheminformatics."⁴

Chemical informatics techniques are just beginning to be effectively applied in chemical industries outside the pharmaceutical area. Within a chemical company, an informatics system will include people who work with the chemical substance registry, electronic records management, laboratory information management systems (LIMS), process data management, the maintenance and design of the computer architecture, and the integration of the computer with effective user interfaces (human-centered design or HCI).

In addition to chemical and drug companies, potential employers of chemical informaticists include database producers, chemical software developers, primary and secondary chemical publishing companies, and those involved in the production of medical, environmental, and chemical instrumentation. The emerging field of chemical informatics thus offers an attractive alternative to the chemist who decides to forego a life at the laboratory bench, but who wants to contribute in a significant way to chemical research by applying information technology. This new breed of information worker will be key partners with the special librarians who have traditionally supplied such great information services to the chemical and pharmaceutical industries. Near the end of my career, it is a privilege and honor for me to help develop one of the first formal programs of instruction in the new field of chemical informatics.

References

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O Henry, Where Art Thou? The Origin of the Property Data Index

By Linda Shackle
Noble Science and Engineering Library
Arizona State University



I think I was born to be a librarian. Even as a child I organized my "collections" ... records, books, toys, clothes, you name it. Mystery novels have always been my favorites; I savor the challenge of figuring out "whodunit" before the last chapter. I'll even read a mystery more than once, first time for the enjoyment, second time to explore how the plot was crafted.

Inevitably these interests influenced the choices that I've made in my career as a reference librarian. I'm like a dog with a bone; the student could have left for his next class over 30 minutes ago but I'll still on the case. Finding the answer isn't everything, though. How one gets to the answer is just as interesting as the answer itself.

Looking back over my 30 years as a librarian reveals a long history of developing finding aids. I've done indexes in card format, pathfinders in print and on the web, developed a web site for my state library association, taught workshops on retrieving information from the Internet during the pre-web days and of course, there's the *Index to Physical, Chemical and Other Property Data* (<http://www.asu.edu/lib/noble/chem/property.htm>) or as it's more commonly known in my library, the "Property Data Index".

Arguably, finding property data is the sci/tech librarian's most challenging area. The properties span subject areas from physics to chemistry to engineering to toxicology; the substances could be chemicals, pharmaceuticals, engineered materials or natural products. Each property can be described in several ways, differing not just between the disciplines but also within a discipline. Each subject has its major data compilations as well as the primary literature but there is no guarantee that the information is in any of these.

Coming from the "print-only" generation of librarians, I prepared for these property questions by memorizing the title, location and general content of the most frequently used handbooks and keeping a file of those hard-to-remember resources or infrequently-sought properties. If I got a call from the reference desk that someone was looking for property data, I'd check my files for clues, then rack my brain for what major resources might have it. Of course, *Chemical Abstracts* was always the back up when the handbooks or my personal file failed me.

In 1998 a plea on CHMINF-L for finding Henry's law constants elicited responses containing several good resources that I wanted to add to my file. I printed out the messages and was about to put the pages in my file under "Henry" when it hit me. *What the heck am I doing?!*

It was like a thunderbolt from the sky. I sat back down with the pages still in my hand and started to visualize. If the information could be filed in paper format, it could be made into a web page. The web page could be formatted in the same way that my files were organized, alphabetically by property and then listing the resources under each property.

I had been creating web pages since 1995, why hadn't I thought of this before? With a web page, my colleagues would be able to access all of my information without me having to be there. If I put all of the resources that I had tucked away in my brain on to that web page too, then my colleagues would have access to everything that I knew about finding property data.

The first thing I did was to make a small sample web page that I could show to my colleagues. The page's content was primarily from the information that I had in my file; of course, resources for Henry's law constant were the first entries I made so I could throw those pieces of paper into the wastebasket. The web page organization was simple; the properties were listed alphabetically with the resources indented under each heading using an unordered list .

I solicited my colleagues to select books or web sites in their subject areas for inclusion and to indicate what properties they specifically wanted to see on the page. I worked on one subject area at a time. Each handbook (or web site) was examined for property data. The first time a specific property was encountered, I researched the property to find synonyms or related properties from which cross-references would be needed. By doing one subject area at a time, I was able to concentrate on a small group of related properties applicable to that subject. I worked on the Index around my regular job duties, so it took months to complete although in less time than my colleagues and myself originally thought.

Inevitably, changes in page design and content occurred as unanticipated situations were encountered. As the content grew so did the size of the site expanding from its original one page to the current 14 pages. Also, the project needed to be kept to a reasonable size, so an informal policy was developed for the site content:

- Standard resources familiar to students would not be included. It was assumed that these resources would have already been consulted. A separate category, called "Standard Reference Sources" was listed on the site's home page directly under the instructions. The list included such items as the CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook, and the ChemFinder web site (<http://www.chemfinder.com>).
- Boiling point, melting point, and density were not included as practically every resource includes this information; instead, a cross reference was made under these properties to the list of standard reference sources.
- If several handbooks, all containing the same type of information, were shelved next to each other, only 1 or 2 would be put in the Index. It was assumed that once a student or librarian went to a specific resource in our printed collection, they would see other similar resources on the same shelf.

- Beilstein's, Gmelin, and Landolt-Bornstein were beyond the scope of the project and were included in the list of standard reference sources.
- Publications indexed elsewhere would not be put in the index; this included:
 - CRC publications covered by the CRC Composite Index,
 - Journal articles retrievable via a Chemical Abstracts search,
 - Major web databases with search engines such as the NIST Data Gateway (<http://srdata.nist.gov/gateway/gateway/>); these were put under the standard reference sources; some web databases were included in the Index before this policy was created.
 - Web sites easily retrieved via standard Internet search engines; most students search the Internet before trying the standard "library" resources.
 - Exceptions to all of the above were made for frequently given assignments. For example, the CRC Handbook of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology was listed under extinction coefficients so that the students taking the physical biochemistry lab could easily find the data for horse heart cytochrome c .

In 2000, a new section was added to the Index. That Fall I participated in a workshop at the Arizona Library Association's annual conference. I presented an instructional session on finding property data for science librarians without science backgrounds; the session talked about how substances are identified (molecular formula, structure, names, and registration numbers) and included tips such as using synonyms for property name and how handbooks and databases are organized. After the session, attendees suggested that the information in this session should be available as part of the Index, so I created a web page that was essentially my talk from that session. That page, 10 Easy Tips for Finding Property Data, is now linked from the Index's home page and is located at <http://www.asu.edu/lib/noble/chem/prophelp.htm>

More than five years after its inception, the Index is going strong, ranking in hits only behind our library's home page. As of the end of 2003, approximately 90 other web sites are linked to it. I still continue to add to it, as new resources appear and of course, I periodically have to check the links for web sites that have disappeared.

The Index is showing its age as the years go by; it has neither a search engine nor does it account for every piece of content within a handbook or web site. Although by no means perfected, the ability to search the full text is now available for many resources. That's why Knovel is listed on the Index's home page under standard reference sources. That's also why I instruct our reference staff to search the Internet for property data not only to identify web pages and government publications but also to identify journal articles in which the data is embedded within the text.

Periodically someone will ask if I'm afraid my job will disappear as the finding aids I've developed and the online proliferation of information makes the students and faculty more self-sufficient. My answer is an emphatic "No!" I still get called out to the reference desk to help with property data questions, only now that my colleagues have already used my favorite resources, these questions are much more challenging but also much more interesting.

My job has changed immensely over the past 30 years but it hasn't disappeared; it's morphed and I've had to make sure that I morphed along with it. After helping a student get the necessary data, I sometimes hear "Wow, how do you know all these things?" I not only thank the student for the compliment, I take a moment to reflect on whether the student's inability to find something that I could means there's a need for a new finding aid, a new resource to be added to an existing finding aid, or maybe just a change in the design of web page. As Thomas Edison once said "There is always a way to do it better ... find it!"

So who is this "Henry", the one whose difficult-to-find constants inspired the Property Data Index?

William Henry (1774-1836) lived in Manchester, England. Childhood injuries necessitated a sedentary life that he decided to devote to the study of medicine and chemistry. His father, Thomas Henry, was a sponsor of John Dalton, who also resided in Manchester during this period and is, of course, most remembered for his law on the behavior of gases in relation to pressure. Undoubtedly, William Henry's friendship with Dalton influenced Henry's study of the behavior (solubility) of gases in contact with liquids. Well respected and reportedly a more skilled technician than Dalton, Henry primarily spent his time validating others' work. Besides Henry's law, another major contribution was his *Elements of Experimental Chemistry*, a popular textbook that went through many editions. Increasing disabilities and pain resulting from his early physical injuries eventually forced a discontinuation of his laboratory work in the 1820's and ultimately led to his suicide. The publication behind Henry's law is "Experiments on the Quantity of Gases Absorbed by Water at Different Temperatures and Under Different Pressures" in *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, 1803, **93**:29-42, 274-276. For more biographical information on Dalton and Henry, see: *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, **3**: 537-546 and **6**: 284-286.

Ten or so things that every chemistry librarian absolutely, positively has to have to keep from being an absolute plonk.

By F. Bartow Culp
Mellon Library of Chemistry
Purdue University

Choosing a “top ten” list of things no chemistry librarian can do without is guaranteed to start a (polite) fight – “How could you leave out X?” “Why in the world did you include Y?”, etc. Should the list be limited to print resources, electronic resources, or both? And how about the disparate needs of academic vs. corporate libraries? Ah, the thing is almost impossible to do. But does that stop us? Nooooooooooooooooooooo! A team of the best and brightest minds in the field has come up with the following list – disagree with us at your peril!

1. **The CRC Handbook of Chemistry & Physics** – Nearing its 100th birthday, the good old CRC has managed, under David Lide’s careful and capable stewardship, to stay between two covers, even if they are the size of a soccer field. The electronic version is even better (and lighter).
2. **The Aldrich catalog** – What could be better - A compendium of basic properties, CAS RNs, spectral, safety and Beilstein references, plus some art history – all for free!
3. **The Merck Index** – It doesn’t contain as many compounds as the CRC, but it’s got the best synonym index going. Not free, but a real bargain at about \$60.
4. **The NIST Chemistry WebBook** < <http://webbook.nist.gov/chemistry/>>. Our tax dollars at work, folks, and (for once) worth every penny. It contains spectra, thermochemical data and much more. Free.
5. **The SDDBS spectral database** <<http://www.aist.go.jp/RIODB/SDDBS/menu-e.html>>. Japan’s tax yen at work, and even bigger and better than the NIST WebBook for spectra – IR, NMR, MS, ESR, and even Raman. Free!
6. **The WebElements page** < <http://www.webelements.com/>>. One of the best online periodic tables going – A nice design, full of information. You might also want to look at the Periodic Table of Rejected Elements < <http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/99aug/9908elements.htm>> for the ones that didn’t make the cut (Examples: Tedium, Visine, and Celenedion).
7. **Hawley’s Condensed Chemical Dictionary**. Nothing impresses patrons more than a librarian being able to talk the chemical talk. The technique is to memorize a few esoteric terms from Hawley’s, such as “flash point”, “octanol-water coefficient”, and “degenerate Cope rearrangement”, and drop them into a sentence like “Have you thought about trying [term]?” The effect is magical.
8. **Google**. OK, OK, it seems like a copout, but that’s where our patrons go first, anyway - right? The best thing to do is to learn a few advanced Google search techniques, like adding a tilde (~) before the word to include its synonyms and plurals. Nowhere else can you find the lyrics for chemical songs like “Glory, glory, it’s Wolff-Kischner”, sung to

the tune of “The battle hymn of the republic”

<http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/chemistry/courses/chem212/songs/>

9. **The Chemical Information Sources Discussion List.** Even if you have a book budget of zero and no resources but a computer and a modem, you can get by as a chemistry librarian by joining Gary Wiggins’ listserv <<http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/chminf-1.html>>. Nearly every serious question sent to this site, no matter how complex or naïve, is thoughtfully considered and (usually) answered.
10. **April Love’s Top Ten List.** If you’ve read this far, you’re probably disappointed, since I haven’t provided much new stuff. That’s because I knew that April Love, Chemistry Librarian at UC/Irvine, has already compiled a great top ten (eighteen, actually) list already. It can be found at <http://www.lib.uci.edu/online/subject/chem_top10.html>.
11. **The Dihydrogen Monoxide Website** <<http://www.dhmo.org>>. Here’s a lagniappe for you from Susanne Redalje, Chemistry Librarian at the University of Washington. I’d stay away from this stuff if I were you – it looks dangerous.

My Perspective: An editorial feature

Recruitment of chemistry librarians, or one professions loss is another professions gain...Musings on the 'darker' side of recruitment

By Susanne J. Redalje
Head, Chemistry Library
University of Washington

While I can't honestly say that people are breaking down my door, demanding information on the wonders of a career in librarianship, I have been privileged over the years to discuss our profession with many would be librarians. Many actually followed through and so far as I know, are quite happy with their decision. I have served as a mentor to several students already in the Library School here at UW and written letters of reference for others, including one recently for one of my current students, who I think will make an excellent librarian, though doubtful in the area of chemistry.

I have enjoyed most of my career (not thrilled that a lot of it has been spent tearing down/canceling what my predecessors built nor can I say I have enjoyed all the time I have spent learning to kick the copier just right so that it starts working again...) and had some good input myself from professionals over the years, so have tried to return the favor when I can. I have told them all the exciting things we do (and some of the less than exciting things we also do-don't want to be sued for false advertising!) and the many traditional and not so traditional opportunities they may find out there. And until this fall, I hadn't really put much more thought into than that.

This fall, I was responding to an email from a colleague and I excitedly started telling her that I had just talked to another chemistry major who was expressing interest in the field of chemical information. I had talked to the student for quite some time, talking about what my life as an academic chemistry librarian is like. She was so interested I had gone a bit further than I usually do, going so far as to showing her the list of presentations from recent professional meetings, and some of the literature available. She seemed quite interested in what she had heard and headed off, planning to follow up on some of what we talked about, including looking into Gary Wiggins' Chemical Informatics program at Indiana. At the beginning of the message to my colleague I had been quite happy, so why was I so depressed by the end of the message? I had just talked to another female chemistry graduate student who loved chemistry but was finding life as a chemistry grad student untenable and was not thrilled with what she anticipated as her future if she continued down what had once seemed like an exciting and wonderful path.

As I noted earlier, students are not breaking down my door but this was the third, female, chemistry graduate student I had talked to over a fairly short period of time. I pondered the topic and became a bit more depressed with time and tried to decide what, if anything I should 'do' about this phenomenon. The problem of women in the sciences is hardly a new one. I won't try to document in these musings what we all already know. Many of you may well fit the pattern yourself, you started out with high hopes for a career of some sort in the field of chemistry but along the way something happened. I'd like to thank those of you who participated in my informal survey via Chminf-l. I received a great deal of input and some fascinating stories. I plan to follow up with a more formal survey soon. The same reasons given for switching to librarianship by the women who answered my survey, who represented many years of experience—from a student soon to graduate from library school to several with over 30 years of experience—were pretty much the same ones I was hearing from these students: they wanted to be able to have a life outside of the lab, including a family; they had to leave the program due to spouse changing jobs; they did not feel welcome and/or were treated poorly by their advisors/department, etc. There were certainly variations on a theme and some of these are problems also faced by men. Understandably, sometimes people simply found that they didn't like what they were doing as much as they had thought they would and wanted another option.

What had happened during the process of completing my email message was that I had gone from excited to feeling somewhat guilty at somehow being a part of the problem more than a solution to the problem. So, where am I going with this? At this point, I am hoping mostly to add another layer to our continuing important discussion of recruiting the next generation of chemistry librarians. Are we a part of the problem? I have many questions but few answers. How, for example, do we feel about adding people to our profession who are clearly choosing this one because they couldn't make it in another? Should we be having conversations with department chair(s) who may or may not be aware of how much trouble some of their students are having? Direct the students to whatever support systems might exist on campus? We are fortunate here on the UW campus to actually have several good support systems on campus, including the WiSE program—Women in Science and Engineering a university-level program designed to help recruit and maintain women in science and engineering. (<http://www.engr.washington.edu/wise/about.htm>). There are other programs as well. Clearly, not all students know about their options nor, for that matter do faculty. I am on the University of Washington Faculty Senate Special Committee on Faculty Women so I hear first hand how much

trouble there still is for women in academia today. The current chair of the committee happens to be a chemical engineering professor who has been in these trenches for many years. Her recommendation, by the way, when I expressed my concern, was to keep up the good work. The women felt comfortable coming to me and they were the ones making the decisions on what happens with their careers and it was a valid option to choose to have a life. She has a point. She also reminded me that many students, male and female, are simply choosing not to play the game as it has been established. They do not want to spend 24/7 in the lab just to get tenure so they can continue working 24/7. Can't say that I blame them.

Librarianship has clearly benefited by the addition of highly talented and enthusiastic science 'dropouts'. I have no qualms at all encouraging people to join a profession I think will be good for them, particularly when they will be good for us. Still, I wonder if there if maybe there is a part we might be playing in improving the lot of women in the sciences?

To that end, I would like to encourage discussion of this topic on chminf-l and other appropriate locations. Am I the only one with questions? On one hand, to use a cliché, I say we take the money and run. We need these people to carry on and push the field into the future and it is a very valid choice for anyone interested in chemistry. I would, however, prefer to live in a world where these women feel free to choose librarianship because they want to, not because they, for whatever reason, can not follow their original goal.

There is a great deal of good literature out there discussing recruitment of science librarians. One example is an overview in the Spring 2003 issue of Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship: "Leaving Science for LIS: Interviews and a Survey of Librarians with Scientific and Technical Degrees" by Julie Hallmark, hallmark@ischool.utexas.edu and Mary Frances Lembo, mf.lembo@pnl.gov. <http://www.istl.org/03-spring/refereed1.html>. Another site of interest is <http://mail.sci.ccny.cuny.edu/~phibarn/careers.html>. I will also be finishing a follow up survey to fill in information I did not ask during my informal survey and will present the information when it is available.

The SLA Chemistry Division E-Newsletter welcomes contributions from the members of the division. The contents of articles and editorials should not be construed as being or representing the official position of the Division. Special Libraries Association (SLA) assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors to the Association's publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official positions of SLA.

If you wish to contribute an editorial relevant to the profession of Chemical Librarianship and the goals of this division, please contact Marilyn Dunker, dunker.mj@pg.com

Member's Corner

News about our members and their activities. If you have some news, been recently published or given a presentation, please send the information to Marilyn Dunker (dunker.mj@pg.com) for inclusion in the next newsletter

News

In December 2003, **Christina Keil** joined Pfizer Global Research and Development in La Jolla, California as an Information Scientist specializing in Chemistry/Patents. Prior to working at Pfizer, she was at the University of California, San Diego from 1997-2003 in a variety of roles including Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Bioengineering, and Corporate Programs Librarian. Her new contact information is: Email (christina.keil@pfizer.com) or Phone (858-622-7671).

Meris Mandernach has recently accepted a position as the Science Instruction Coordinator/Bibliographer at Loyola University Chicago.

Recent Publications & Presentations by Members

Teri Vogel

Goans, D.; Vogel, T. M. "Building a Home for Library News with a Blog." *Computers in Libraries*, 2003, vol. 23, no. 10, pp. 20-26

http://www.infoday.com/cilmag/nov03/goans_vogel.shtml (text)

At the Georgia Council of Media Organizations (GaCOMO) 2003 Conference in October, I gave a presentation called "Mining GALILEO in the Sciences." This was a 2-hr presentation for public librarians, school media specialists and technical school librarians who wanted to learn more about science resources. Part 1 focused on databases available to them through the state consortium (GALILEO), and part 2 focused on internet resources

(<http://www.library.gsu.edu/research/pages.asp?ldID=8&guideID=0&ID=346>)

New members of the Chemistry Division

Welcome to these new members who joined the division from September to December, 2003

Sarah H. Jeong

Student, Wake Forest Univ.

Tract A, Landfried

US Army Research Laboratory Technical
Library

Janet E. Hack

Student

Robert T. Stewart

Dialog

Davud A, Breiner

Cytec Industries Technical Information
Center

John S. Rubacha

Great Lakes Chemical Corp.

Natalia Maklakov

Beyond the Chemistry Web...

A listing of useful websites about chemistry or anything that can be useful in our profession. If you have a website to share, please send it to Ben Wagner (abwagner@buffalo.edu) who will be taking over editing this column. Include the URL, title of the sites and a brief description of its features or usefulness.

The focus for this column is toxicology. The first stop should always be the excellent set of databases at the National Library of Medicine's TOXNET site at <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/index.html>. The largest database at this site, TOXLINE, is described below.

TOXLINE

<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?TOXLINE>

Website Notes: TOXLINE is the place to start any extensive research on toxicology. This extensive National Library of Medicine database is a wide-ranging composite of citations and abstracts from many other databases including essentially all toxicology-oriented records from PubMed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/>). TOXLINE is searchable by keywords, CAS registry numbers, subject headings including MeSH headings, and authors. Citations go back as far as 1910, though coverage before 1966 is very selective.

Other sites worth checking out are:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>

Website Notes: ATSDR is the lead federal public health agency for response to releases of hazardous substances into the environment and participates in policy development for environmental health-related issues. Among the resources they maintain on their web site are Toxicological Profiles for over 265 chemicals, ToxFAQs summaries, the CERCLA Priority List of Hazardous Substances, and the Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES).

MEDLINEplus Toxicology Guides

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/poisoningtoxicologyenvironmentalhealth.html>

Website Notes: MEDLINEplus from the National Library of Medicine has created extensive topical guides on poisoning, toxicology, and environmental health. Topics include asbestos, biodefense and bioterrorism, anthrax, indoor air pollution, ozone, lead poisoning, and pesticides.

TSCATS (Toxic Substance Control Act Test Submission Database)

<http://esc.syrres.com/efdb/tscats.htm>

Website Notes: TSCATS is a central system for the collection, maintenance, and dissemination of information on unpublished technical reports submitted by industry to EPA under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Studies on over 8,000 chemicals are categorized into three broad subject areas (health effects, environmental effects, and environmental fate). Searches can be conducted using these subject areas plus additional indexing terms from the controlled vocabulary of testing protocol describing observations (e.g., species, duration of study, etc.).

Since most of the documents are unpublished private company, they usually can not be found in the other databases listed in this guide. The database was developed by the Syracuse Research Corporation for the US EPA in 1985.

Society of Toxicology

<http://www.toxicology.org/>

The premier professional organization in toxicology devotes much of its web site to career, and members-only information. However, some excellent resources are freely available under the *Public Outreach* tab. Other highlights are this site include:

Academic and Post-Doctoral Toxicology Programs and Web Sites

<http://www.toxicology.org/PublicOutreach/CareerResources/careerprograms.html>

Toxicology Web Sites of Interest

<http://www.toxicology.org/Information/siteofinterest/sites.html>

Student Research Internships in Toxicology

<http://www.toxicology.org/PublicOutreach/EducationOutreach/sri.html>

Toxicology Specialist Directory

<http://www.toxicology.org/Information/News/newsmedia.html>

SLA Chemistry Division Officers & Functionaries, 2003-2004

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<p>MENTORING: Loren Mendelsohn City College of New York Science/Engineering Library New York NY 10031 212-650-8244 (W) 212-650-7626 (FAX) LMEND@ccny.cuny.edu</p>	<p>ACS LIAISON: Sue Cardinal Carlson Library University of Rochester Rochester NY 14627 585-275-9007 (W) 585-273-4656 (FAX) scardinal@library.rochester.edu</p>	<p>ASIST LIAISON: Ann Eagan Cline Library Northern Arizona University Box 6022 Flagstaff AZ 88011-6022 520-523-3770 (W)</p>