# How to Find Chemical Information

## A Guide for Practicing Chemists, Teachers, and Students

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# PREFACE

One of the basic premises on which this book is written is that of change. Just as chemistry and chemical engineering change, so do the sources of information chemists and engineers use. New and improved information tools are constantly being introduced, and, concurrently, older tools become less valuable, become obsolete, or are discontinued. Accordingly, this book presents the most important and enduring of the classical tools of chemical information; the more significant newer tools; and, most importantly, the underlying methods, principles, and keys the chemist and engineer need to cope with the constantly changing array of chemical information sources and tools.

There are reasons why rapid, sometimes dramatic, change is an integral part of the chemical information scene. One is the advances and improvements made possible by computerized information handling and processing techniques. Another is the sharp escalation in publishing costs. This, when coupled with the vast amount of chemical information, has caused the demise of some older standard sources, significant changes in other tools, and numerous recent innovative attempts to provide improved approaches.

Because this book emphasizes the more enduring principles that lead to the most effective use of chemical information, the coverage of sources, methods, and tools is selective. And because most chemists and engineers are employed at some time in industry, emphasis is on approaches to meet practical needs. The equally important needs and interests of chemists and engineers in academic work (both teachers and students), and in government or independent research and development work, are also emphasized.

Whenever possible, comments are made on the pros and cons of the major sources. These comments should aid the reader in his evaluation of other sources. Additionally, estimates as to future outlook and developments are given as appropriate.

As applied to the needs of chemists in research and development and others in similar functions, this work is written in a climate reflecting the changing emphasis in programs and expenditures, which now stress: (1) the toxicological and other safety aspects, including pollution abatement and control; (2) improvement of existing products and processes; (3) the development of new products, which in many cases are built on existing strengths rather than new departures; and (4) an increasingly close relationship with the marketing function.

Information science students, teachers, and practitioners with special interest in chemistry and chemical engineering will also find material of value in this volume.

ROBERT E. MAIZELL

*New Haven, Connecticut*
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R.E.M.

# SOME CAVEATS

The terms *chemist*, *chemical engineer*, and *engineer* are meant to be used and understood as similar or related in most parts of this book. In most places the *chemist* is used as the term of choice, primarily to save space and reading time. Somewhat similar reasoning applies to the use of *he* as the arbitrarily preferred term over *she*; both terms are implied in every case.

This book represents the views and opinions of the author; it does not necessarily reflect those of his organization.

Although the material presented is aimed primarily at the United States audience, the author sincerely hopes that readers in other countries will find this volume helpful in their work and studies.

# FIGURES

# CONTENTS