

BOOK REVIEWS

Odborná literatura a informace v chemii. (Scientific Literature and Information in Chemistry.)

By *J. Vymětal et al.* Orac, a. s., Prague, Czech Republic, 2001. Pp. 377.

Over the past years the use of computers has led to an increasing promotion of productive use of information products. Especially, in chemistry is the possibility of orientation in a broad spectrum of chemical literature and a prompt and comprehensive gaining of information in what is new and significant for chemistry and chemical engineering in the world's scientific and technical literature the most important element in the sequence information – knowledge – innovation – product – profit. Namely, a lack of information can lead to an undesired expenditure of time and resources due to repetitive work.

The book begins by providing a brief introduction of the importance of information and attempts to highlight the contemporary information environment in chemistry and the structure of information sources (Chapters 2 and 3). Chapters 4–7 deal with the fundamental principles of gaining access to information recorded in primary, secondary, and tertiary information sources in classical (published) and computer-readable form. Chapters 8–10 provide a thorough introduction to the access to information in chemical libraries and information centres, focus on the strategy of information search and handling and discuss additional information sources. Each chapter includes a separate comprehensive list of references, providing a good resource for pursuing a topic in more depth.

The book points out the world-wide organized information retrieval services in chemistry, which form on the basis of a long-term development a fairly functioning system and provide a practical key designed to help chemists and chemical engineers to stay abreast of the latest reported advances in theory and technology alerting them to current information in the world's chemical literature and databases.

In this respect the book "Scientific Literature and Information in Chemistry" by *Jan Vymětal* and coauthors fulfils the mission the first author stated in his previous two textbooks and papers of providing a theoretical approach to the field of gaining and handling information in chemical science and technology. The book will be of immense value particularly for chemical researchers, managers, educators, and students of chemical and pharmaceutical faculties, and the professional staff of libraries and information centres.

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