

Book Review

J.E. Ash, P.E. Chubb, S.E. Ward, S.M. Welford and P. Willett, *Communication, Storage and Retrieval of Chemical Information*. Chichester, England: Ellis Horwood (distributed by John Wiley & Sons), 1985. 297 p. £32.50. ISBN 0853125716.

My first look at this book resulted in a disappointment: its catch-word is communication. For some reason, I had been looking into the subject of molecular graphing and modelling—and I was hoping to find a solution to my own problem in that area.

But in reading the book, I realized that there was nothing really wrong with it—except that the title is misleading. It should have been: “Retrieval, Storage and Communication of Chemical Information”. The retrieval aspects in the book are simply marvellous: it is a very authoritative survey of all available information systems on chemistry, world-wide. As such, the book is a must for all online searchers in this area. Considering present trends to give access to end-users as well, it might also soon become a must to end-user chemists.

For the moment, this is the most recent survey on chemical information systems; thus, it is invaluable. For the moment, alas—since no area is changing faster than this one. I sincerely hope that the book will be such a commercial success that we shall find an updated version of it on our desks within a year or so.

If you live in a chemical environment, buy this publication: it might prove to be your ‘handbook’ for some time to come.

Finally, the authors and the publisher are to be congratulated for bringing out what are essentially conference proceedings in such a neat, timely and cheap form.

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