



Chemical Societies on the Web

What do you expect your society to do for you after you have paid your fee? There are obvious services such as membership journals and meetings, but also pushing forward the chemical interests of the members. Numerous others are conceivable. Nowadays, a chemical society's web site (Table 1) should have a professional and representative appearance.

You would like to find information about what services the society offers. All of the sites investigated in this review offer information on their activities but not all of them seem to want you to join—only slightly more than half of them offer an application form for download or information on who to contact directly.

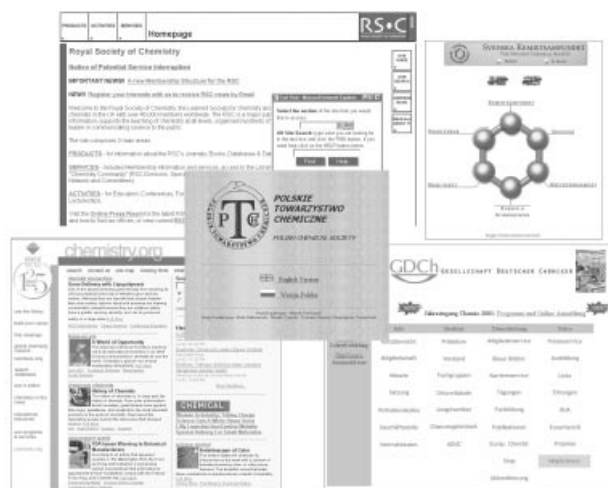
Many chemical societies have divisions, sections or discussion groups,

which are often present on the society's web site, so you can find out whether you can push forward your speciality in that society. For instance, does your society have a polymer chemistry group and who do you need to contact to join?

Publications are an essential service and also help societies make money to fund other activities, but they are not linked from all of the sites of societies that are not publishers themselves. Partner societies are linked from Wiley-VCH's journal web pages to demonstrate their importance for these publications. The American Chemical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK) display their variety of products.

The web is ideal to gather information in event calendars, where organisers can submit their conference announcements. Almost all societies use this possibility to serve their members. Registration for the GDCh's general meeting is mostly web-based.

Job offers are only found on a small number of society pages, such as the GDCh and the RSC, which also provide advice for career planning, interview techniques and so on. The offers are primarily targeted to the society's home country, so it is a good place to start looking for a job abroad. Also have a



look at the Younger Chemists' pages some societies offer.

What else can you find on chemical societies' web pages? The German Chemical Society (GDCh) has set up a trade fair ("HelpScience") for used books, journals, and instruments. The French SFC has a discussion board currently devoted to recycling issues (registration required). The Bunsen-Gesellschaft (Germany) has one as well, but it is empty. On the web site of the ACS, news appears on the entry page and you can also participate in weekly quick polls, mostly on science and education politics. The RSC is the only one that bothers you with a small extra (search) window that opens automatically when you access their site. The Italian site is as colorful as you would expect from this sunny country.

Suggest a web site or submit a review:
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Table 1. Society sites reviewed

Country	Society	Web Site
Austria	GÖCh	http://goech.at/
Belgium	SRC	http://www.ulb.ac.be/assoc/src/
	KVCV	http://www.kvcv.be/
Czech Republic	CSCH	http://www.csch.cz/
France	SFC	http://www.sfc.fr/
Germany	GDCh	http://www.gdch.de/
	Bunsen Society	http://www.bunsen.de/
Great Britain	RSC	http://www.rsc.org/
Greece	EEX	http://www.eex.gr/
Hungary	MKE	http://www.mtesz.hu/gtagy/mke/
Italy	SCI	http://www.sci.uniba.it/
Japan		http://www.chemistry.or.jp/index-e.html
Poland	PTC	http://www.ptchem.lodz.pl/
Portugal	SPQ	http://www.spq.pt/
Russia	Mendeleev	http://www.chemsoc.org/networks/enc/fecs/fecsrussia.htm
Spain	RSEQ	http://www.ucm.es/info/rsequim/
Sweden	SK	http://www.chemsoc.se/
Switzerland	SCS/SCG/SSC	http://www.swiss-chem-soc.ch/
The Netherlands	KNCV	http://www.kncv.nl/indexkncv.html
USA	ACS	http://www.chemistry.org/

You can expect a lot from your chemical society web site and some actually offer a large variety of information. Most of them focus on their own country, so less than half of them have an English page to facilitate international cooperation. Even the big fish in the pond such as the German and the French do not. Maybe there is something you can do for your society by volunteering not just your ideas but also your design or programming talent for their web maintenance team!

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