The Best Chemistry Sites?

When one tries to find a chemist on the internet or wants to find out which is the most important chemistry department in the South Pacific is—what does one do? One could try to guess the department's web address or one could use a search engine, such as Google. One could also use the list of "two thousand of the best chemistry sites", which has been maintained by the group of Jonathan Goodman at Cambridge University (UK) since 1997 (Figure 1).

The site holds three major sections: chemistry departments, journals, and chemical data. The department list is grouped according to country: USA, United Kingdom, rest of Europe, and rest of the world (does this imply that chemists in Cambridge think the UK is a part of Europe?!). Around 100 countries are listed and the US list is sorted according to state. There is also a list of chemists, but the data do not seem to be very reliable. While there are a great number of entries, it is obviously not comprehensive. Some departments are present in this list, but there seems to be nobody in that department. In some places, not all the chemistry departments are listed. The same city in the department list, however, has the full set of institutions actually present.

The journals section can be browsed by alphabet, publisher, or subject, such as organic, inorganic, or physical chemistry, but also materials science and environmental and agricultural chemistry, reflecting chemistry in its broadest meaning. The list was started in 1995 and holds about 700 entries including a few databases and preprint servers. All journal names are linked to journal home pages. Some relatively new journals are, however, missing in the list, such as *Angewandte Chemie*'s recent offspring *ChemBioChem* and *ChemPhysChem*.

The third major section in the site is devoted to chemical data, or more precisely, to databases. The page lists databases in Cambridge, such as the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, other national and international databases, including Beilstein, the Protein Data Bank, or the NIST Chemistry Webbook. There are also a number of chemistry mailing lists that one may want to subscribe to. The list of organizations features patent offices and suppliers. Last, but not least, there are hazard data and some links for those interested in the history of chemistry. A minor part of the site lists societies, online clubs, and companies.

Suggest a web site or submit a review:
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The number of links is certainly impressive and this site is absolutely worth bookmarking. Links are checked every month, so one can be sure not to be sent on a wild goose chase. The design is simple and functional, so pages are loaded in next to no time. While user suggestions are certainly welcome, there is no obvious link for submission other than to the group leader. Selection criteria as implied by the word "best" in the title are not mentioned. More crosslinking and indexing and a search facility would make the wealth of information gathered by the group even more useful.

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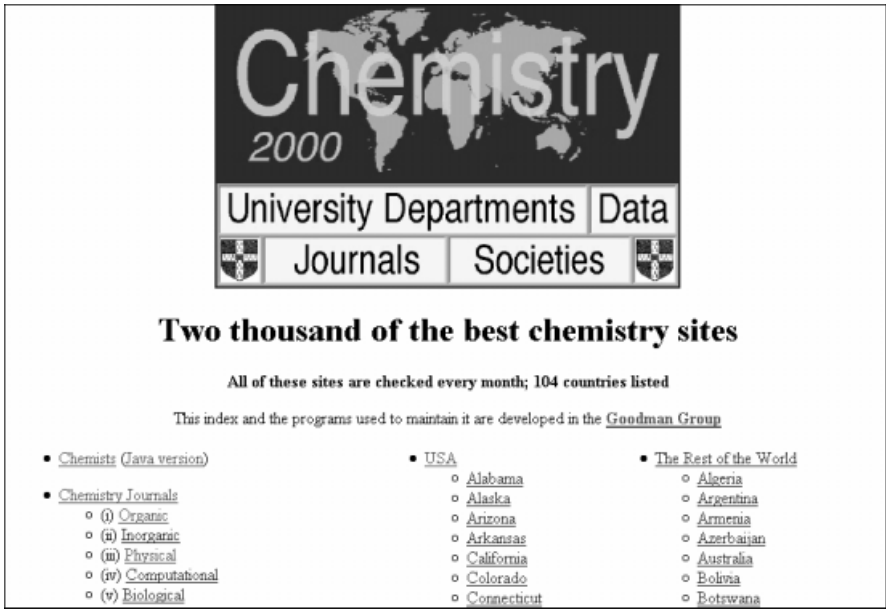

Figure 1. The entrance to 2000 chemistry sites.

For further information visit:
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