One Site Fits All: SpectroscopyNOW

Since May 2001, a spectroscopy portal called "SpectroscopyNOW" has been offered freely on the Internet by Wiley. It is aimed to become a central site of interest, particularly for experts who are looking for information or want to exchange ideas. When this report was written (August 2001), the following techniques were covered: NMR, mass spectrometry, IR, X-ray techniques, and chemometrics; atomic absorption spectrometry, UV/Vis, and Raman spectroscopy will be added soon.

The X-ray section includes X-ray diffraction (crystallography), and chemometrics is seen as a statistical tool for spectroscopists, while less common methods, such as EPR, do not explicitly show up. The new portal combines three formerly seperate activities, namely the "NMR Knowledge Base" (previously found at www.nmr.de), "Base Peak" (mass spectrometry), and "Chemometrics World", in a new and uniform layout.

The home page presents features and news on the named selection of spectroscopic methods. Those who do not want to spend their time browsing through these articles have the possibility to search for specific information directly, either by means of the menus or through the search function. When using the menus, select the desired technique from the horizontal menu bar at the top of the page to leave the general area first. The section you enter is easily recognized from the banner at the head of the page and a color code. Subsequently, you can navigate with the help of the vertical menu bar at the left margin by way of main and submenus.

The following categories are offered among others: a magazine section, job offers, web links, books and journals including an e-zine, conference announcements, and a product directory. All pages are generated dynamically from a data base and have the same layout. The web links can be found in the Directory, which is hierarchically structured. First the title, an internal hit counter, and a comment are shown. The collection of external web pages has been selected by the editors, and their quality is usually high. A treasure trove for tutorials, data bases, and other resources can be found under "Directory/Resources", the software category is also rewarding. You are encouraged to submit further links.

Besides the simple search function an advanced search is available, allowing an input of words or phrases connected by Boolean "or" and the selection of categories; unfortunately, this selection does not work properly at present. A full-text search in the internal data base is performed; only title and comment are covered for external web pages. Since the number of selected web pages is not particularly large, searches may easily fail. This behavior has already been noted in a previous review of "www.nmr.de",[1] which is now integrated here; however, a search for "Karplus" now yields one hit. Thus, an "expert system" is not yet offered, the more so since in the magazine section a glossary of terms is currently only available for mass spectrometry. Presently, the portal itself offers only a few interactive web programs (tools), but it gives pointers to useful tools on other sites.

SpectroscopyNOW is certainly already an outstanding site for all those who are looking for information on spectroscopy. The well-designed and uniform functionality in all sections is ergonomic, and the bundling of all major techniques offers synergy effects.

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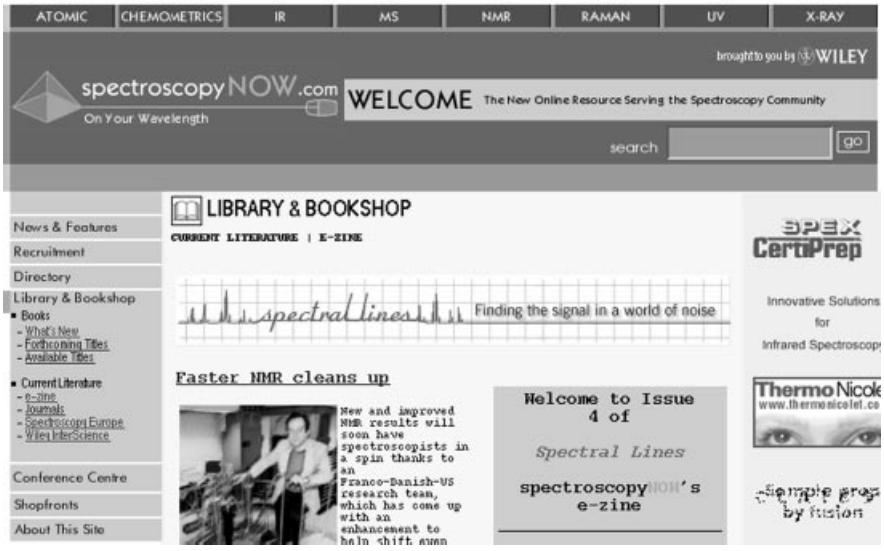
[1] S. Berger, *Angew. Chem.* **2001**, *113*, 993; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2001**, *40*, 965.

For further information visit
http://www.spectroscopynow.com/
or contact
spectroscopynow@wiley.co.uk

Suggest a web site or submit a review:
angewandte@wiley-vch.de



Part of a page (e-zine) of SpectroscopyNOW.

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