



The Chemists' Web

The exchange of information and new results is an inseparable part of scientific work. A widely spanned network of personal contacts, congresses, and most importantly the platform of the internationally renowned scientific journals is the current basis of scientific information exchange. Recently, some new challengers have emerged on the World Wide Web and try to gain a market share by promising to provide higher timeliness and flexibility.

One of these challengers is Chemweb.com (Elsevier), a closely related set of several web pages, services, and addresses for chemists in research, education, and industry. Started in April 1997, the English Chemweb claims to be the worlds largest "Chemical Community" on the web and thus rivals with web pages such as Chemie.de.^[1] The main components of Chemweb are a preprint server for fast communication of scien-

tific results, the chemical online magazine "The Alchemist", and also "Forums", specialized web pages from the Chemweb.

"The Alchemist" (Figure 1) is an online magazine which publishes edited secondary literature and news. Although general comprehensibility is one of the key features, the journal still maintains a remarkably high scientific level. With excellent comprehensive articles in the "features" part, the journal readily lends itself for a pleasant "chemical coffee break" but also for educational use in school.

"The Chemistry Preprint Server" should be one of the most interesting projects of Chemweb. Researchers can make their articles freely available on the web prior to print thus speeding up the publication cycle, which is of interest in "hot spots" of science. The possibility to directly discuss the articles on the message board is very promising as well as the option of viewing articles by categories like most recent, highest ranked, most discussed and most viewed. In spite of some exceptions the quality of the publications seems to be quite high. Most of the most viewed and highest ranked articles seem to be discussed at most once or twice. The most viewed articles have been read only about 1000–3000 times since the summer of 2000, the highest ranked articles in general about 100–200 times. The total number of submissions is currently only 377. All these figures illustrate that the preprint server is currently not accepted. This may be due to the fact that many of the most renowned chemical journals,

in contrast to other scientific fields like physics, do not accept prepublished articles (Ed.: such as *Angewandte Chemie*).

The Chemweb portal site offers a wide array of edited information with links to the rest of the web. There is also a diverse selection of freely available chemical services like an online version of the chemical nomenclature program "Beilstein Au-

tonom", however limited in the number of atoms. In the database section you will find links to some of the most renowned free and commercial databases. The collection of links to most of the important chemistry journals is quite useful and so is the menu option "Conferences" which implements a seemingly complete calendar of congresses all around the world. Specialized excerpts from the information offers of the Chemweb are available as "Forums", such as for organic chemistry. Last but not least there is an opportunity to find and offer jobs through Chemweb, however more or less limited to English speaking countries.

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

The Chemweb is presented as an up-to-date news and portal site for all chemical purposes. The claim to be an online "chemical community" cannot yet be fulfilled as the possibilities for interaction are scarce and the editorial part is large. However, this may well change when the general discussion message board will be available. The "Preprint Server" is an application with high potential. Although well implemented it is missing contents at the moment. The associated online magazine "The Alchemist" convinces with its short and informative articles. A visit to Chemweb is definitely worth a mouse click for everyone interested in chemistry.

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Figure 1. Online magazine "The Alchemist".

- [1] M. Müller, *Angew. Chem.* **2001**, 113, 269; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2001**, 40, 261.

For further information visit:
<http://www.chemweb.com/>
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