

## Book reviews

**H.F. Wicks, C. Fliefert, W.E. Russey (Eds.), *The Art of Scientific Writing*, 2nd Edition, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, Germany, 2004 (xii + 595 pp., £24–95, ISBN 3-527-29829-0).**

Quality scientific writing is of great importance to most scientists who live in a ‘publish or perish’ environment. However, only few of them would describe themselves as good writers. To help those wishing to improve their scientific writing skills, *The Art of Scientific Writing*, 2nd Edition provides different forms and goals of scientific writing from student reports to professional publications in chemistry and related fields. Moreover, details about the writing techniques, accurate expression and accepted standards are also including.

There are two main parts contained in this book. Part I is concerned with the various forms of scientific writing for various goals. Part II introduces the different materials, tools and methods in scientific writing. The first chapter writes about the purpose, preparation and different types of the report. A scientific report is one of the important parts of an experiment. Chapter 2 firstly gives an introduction about the purpose of the dissertation, then concerns on the components and preparing of the dissertation. The publication of the journal article and some details about how to make a manuscript into a publication are covered in Chapter 3. The planning and preparation of a book is covered in Chapter 4. These four chapters are all about the forms of the scientific writings.

The different currently available writing techniques are compared, in Chapter 5, with those previously available. With the development of the technology in personal computers, electronic formatting of scientific writing is very popular. Chapter 6 focuses attention on the concepts of ‘formulas’, and parallels the two subsequent Chapters 6 and 7 on: ‘Figures’ and ‘Tables’. These three chapters emphasize technical aspects of writing that directly relate to the different parts of a scientific manuscript. Quantities, units used in various fields and numerical data of scientific writing are included in Chapter 6 while the general considerations and the different ways of creating figures are introduced in Chapter 7. The forms and components of the tables are dealt with in Chapter 8. The final Chapter 9, describes how to collect and build your own professional literatures from various sources, and also introduces different citation techniques of literature.

This book provides an up-to-date, clearly written and presented compendium as a tool book. It is especially

suitable for the students and scientists in chemistry and related fields who want to improve their scientific writing.

John F. Kennedy  
Meng M. He

*Chembiotech Laboratories,  
Institute of Research and Development,  
University of Birmingham Research Park,  
Birmingham B15 2T, UK*

Accepted 16 March 2005  
Available online 26 April 2005

0144-8617/\$ - see front matter © 2005 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.  
doi:10.1016/j.carbpol.2005.03.006

**R. Day, J. A. Reader, E. Rowland, *Health, Safety and Environment Legislation: A Pocket Guide*, Royal Society of Chemistry Cambridge, UK, 2003 (xxiv + 332 pp., £49.50, ISBN 0-85404-497-3).**

Concerns regarding the health and safety of employees in the work place have existed for more than 120 years in the UK with the publication of *Redgrave's Factories Acts*. Nowadays, legislation has existed since the 1974 act and was reinforced in 1999. These acts secure the health, safety and welfare of persons at work, as well as protecting persons other than persons at work against the risk to health and safety arising from work activities. More recently, legislation for the protection of the environment has also been defined in order to control pollution and biohazards. Employees and employers are both encouraged to be familiar with current laws since ignorance is not a valid defence.

*Health, Safety and Environment Legislation* reviews current rights and duties of employees at work concerning their health and safety, as well as the obligations for companies regarding the safety of employees, and environment legislation. The guide is divided into two parts. Part A focuses on health and safety regulations in the work place. It is divided into six chapters, which cover existing legislation, external notification, substance manipulation, plant and equipment utilisation, premises, and employee's rights. Part B presents 11 chapters on environment-related regulations. Topics covered in this section include