

Book review

Bibliographic Guide for Editors and Authors: BioSciences Information Service of Biological Abstracts, Chemical Abstracts Service, and Engineering Index, Inc., 1974, 23A+362 pages; \$9.50 postpaid from Bibliographic Support Division, Chemical Abstracts Service, Columbus, Ohio 43210 (U. S. A.); discount available for multiple copies.

This volume results from a combined effort of the three abstracting organizations, BIOSIS, CAS, and Ei, to develop a consistent set of standard conventions for coded bibliographic references to serial publications. The main body of the text is devoted to an alphabetical list of full titles for some 27,700 scientific periodicals, indicating the standard abbreviated title for each, together with the serial title code (CODEN), and stating which of the three abstracting services monitors that particular periodical. A short, introductory section describes the generation of a coded bibliographic strip and its use in machine handling of bibliographic data, and is followed by another short section on bibliographic standards promulgated by the American National Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

This soft-bound book is directed to the needs of authors and editors in locating approved abbreviations for journal titles; it is eminently more responsive to the needs of scientists than the CAS Source Index (CASSI), 1907–1974 Cumulative Edition, which is addressed more to the requirements of librarians. Changes in some abbreviations resulting from the merging of the three systems will prove irksome for a while: *this* journal is now *Carbohydr. Res.*, and other familiar titles also sport modified abbreviations, for example: *Adv. Carbohydr. Chem. Biochem.*, *Methods Carbohydr. Chem.*, and *Carbohydr. Chem.*, but it is to be hoped that the broader agreement on which these new abbreviations are based will ensure a measure of stability against further change. The lack of any cross-references in the list may impede the user; for instance, the familiar *Annalen* is listed only under *Justus Liebig's Annalen der Chemie*, and *Compt. Rend.* appears under *Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires des Seances de l'Academie des Sciences, Serie C: Sciences Chimiques*. A “wrong” serial abbreviation could prove difficult to track down and translate into the approved one. However, detailed cross-referencing would undoubtedly have boosted the price of this guide considerably.

A useful feature in the introductory section is a listing of other documents on bibliographic standards issued by ANSI and ISO that are useful for establishing unique and unambiguous title abbreviations for non-serial publications such as monographs and proceedings of meetings or conferences. The coded bibliographic strip is a concise, machine-readable contraction of a literature citation, giving the code

for the periodical followed by the volume number, issue number, inclusive pagination, and year. Two code systems are in use for titles of periodicals, the ASTM system which employs a five-letter CODEN plus a check character (for *Carbohydr. Res.* the CODEN is CRBRAT), and the eight-character International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) that has seven numbers plus a check character. As validated ISSN were not available from the International Serials Data System, only the ASTM CODEN notation for each periodical is given in the guide.

This useful guide fills a real need and can be recommended for every scientific author and editor.

Department of Chemistry
The Ohio State University

DEREK HORTON