

Web alert

Combi-ing the web

Chemistry & Biology December 1998,
5:R337

© Current Biology Ltd ISSN 1074-5521

The seemingly exponential rise of interest in the area of combinatorial chemistry at both university and industrial settings worldwide has, unsurprisingly, led to a similarly substantial increase in the resources and techniques available to researchers in this field. Needless to say, useful information for the combi-chemist is readily available with the help of a personal computer and access to the internet. To help you on your journey to becoming, or continuing to be, a combinatorial chemist, the Web alert this month focuses on a number of interesting sites from which to begin your combinatorial quest.

Why not start at the Diversity Information Pages, which are a must-see site for all those interested in the area of molecular diversity and combinatorial chemistry. The site contains regularly updated and very comprehensive lists of published articles from the past ten years, as well as information on patents, presentations, symposia and books. An interactive graffiti wall allows you to post your relevant announcements, questions and so on. Helpfully, the text at the Diversity site can be translated into different languages.

Another excellent site for locating published advances in combi-chem is the Unofficial Combinatorial Chemistry Web Site. Here you can find lists of new papers in the field conveniently organized according to their content. The subject organization follows the same format as that used in the book entitled 'The Combinatorial Index' (Academic Press, 1998), a bible for researchers in this area (see *Chem. Biol.* 5, R265–R266 for a book review). Barry Bunin is both the author of the book and the contact name for this site, which also has a good list of links to other sites of combinatorial chemistry interest.

At the *Tetrahedron* website, an online Focus on Combinatorial Chemistry page gives a monthly mini-review of articles published in the five *Tetrahedron* journals. The relevant references are included and if you have online subscription the articles can be accessed directly from here. (At the time of writing, however, this website had not been updated since January 1998.)

At the other end of the timeliness spectrum, the Archives of Molecular Diversity, run by the University of Arizona, consist of monthly up-to-date bulletin boards of messages relating to molecular diversity for basic research and drug discovery. Typically, you can find information on topics such as new journals, symposia and conferences, job positions and databases.

Another good starting point is the Wendy Warr and Associates Home Page, which leads to the Information Sources in

Biotechnology, Chemistry and Molecular Diversity; this, in turn, gives a collection of useful bookmarks for companies involved in biotechnology, combinatorial chemistry and high-throughput screening. There are also links to database and chemical suppliers and companies offering equipment for automated synthesis. For chemists and biologists perusing this site there are some miscellaneous links to general science sites too.

For companies and supplies, go to NetSci's Combinatorial Chemistry and Mass Screening Yellow Pages, a site that provides the contact details of commercial suppliers and research organizations in the combinatorial field. The lists are extensive and include links to individual company websites. To include your own company in these yellow pages, you can simply fill out the online registration form.

An excellent example of a company supplying products and services for the combinatorial chemist on the web can be found at Novabiochem Online. Chemicals and resins can be ordered directly via the web from Novabiochem, and the site also includes a detailed newsletter and innovation area that gives information on new products and their applications, including relevant literature references. If you need technical help from the company, you can submit a query from the website.

There is no doubt that combinatorial chemistry is having a profound effect on our ability to generate vast libraries of compounds efficiently and effectively. Hopefully, by highlighting some of the websites that focus on this exciting area of scientific activity, tracking down materials and methods for molecular diversity will be just as efficient and trouble-free.

Web sites and URLs

Diversity Information Pages	http://www.5z.com/divinfo/
The Unofficial Combinatorial Chemistry Web Site	http://www.combinatorial.com/
Focus on Combinatorial Chemistry	http://oxford.elsevier.com/tis/cctext.html
NetSci's Combinatorial Chemistry and Mass Screening Yellow Pages	http://www.netsci.org/Resources/CCYP/top.html
Novabiochem Online	http://www.nova.ch/
Archives of Molecular Diversity	http://listserv.arizona.edu/lsv/www/mol-diversity.html
Wendy Warr and Associates Home Page	http://www.warr.com/
Information Sources in Biotechnology, Chemistry and Molecular Diversity	http://www.warr.com/ombichem.html

Stephen P. East
Imperial College of Science, Technology and
Medicine, South Kensington, London, SW7
2AY, UK; s.east@ic.ac.uk.