

# Organic Process Research & Development

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## *Editorial*

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### **The Importance of Browsing the Literature**

In these pressurised times in industry, it is hard for chemists and engineers working in process R&D to find the time to keep up with the literature. However, this is an important task, and it should be part of each person's objectives to read journals and books. When I say read, I mean not just reading to obtain a specific piece of information, which is probably best achieved via electronic searching, but browsing for general education and building up a background knowledge of areas outside one's expertise.

Process R&D is a multidisciplinary topic and not just organic chemistry, and reading needs to cover as many disciplines as possible. For those who cannot find the time, we have provided, in this journal, some highlights of what we believe are important topics. Having expanded the number of contributors to this section, we have also been able to cover more papers outside conventional organic chemistry, and I hope this is appreciated by readers.

I (and I know others agree) find it hard to browse electronic versions of journals and much prefer hardcopy. This may be partly because I browse journals on trains, planes, etc., but even when I have access to the electronic form, I still prefer hardcopy for browsing.

Many company libraries have, for financial reasons, dispensed with hardcopy journals—a mistake in my view. Some have abandoned libraries all together. This means that books, which are usually only available in hardcopy, are not available to scientists. The library is also a sanctuary, a place where there is peace and freedom from the hassle of telephone and e-mail, and an ideal place to browse the literature, to develop new ideas, and to think. What has happened to thinking time? Do companies realise how important this is?

I urge you to fight to keep your company or departmental library and to retain hardcopy journals, wherever possible, to encourage browsing. And do not forget to keep up with the book literature for general education. There are some excellent books with strong industrial interest being published (see the Book Reviews section in this issue) containing information not available elsewhere.

Find time to browse! Enjoy!

Trevor Laird

*Editor*

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