



# Chemical Information Careers or Life Outside the Lab.

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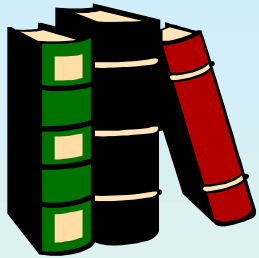


# Topics of Discussion - Six Career Tracks in Chemistry

- Patent information specialists
- Chemistry information specialists
- Indexers and abstracters
- Competitive intelligence specialists
- Technical editors
- Computer programmers



# Patent Information Specialist



- Prior art and infringement searches
  - ◆ Has it been done before?
  - ◆ Does someone else have a patent on it?
- Patent status
  - ◆ When does its patent term end?
  - ◆ What stage is the patent in?



# Patent Information Specialist

- Employers: companies, law firms, self-employed
- Education: scientific degrees, M.L.S. (Optional), patent agents (Optional)
- Organization: Patent Information Users Group ([www.piug.org](http://www.piug.org))



# Chemistry Information Specialist



- Chemical structure and reaction searches
  - ◆ What is its structure?
  - ◆ How is it made?
  - ◆ How can we synthesize a new compound?
- Enduser training
  - ◆ Enduser products such as (ISIS, SciFinder, CrossFire, MicroPatent, etc.)



# Chemistry Information Specialist

- Employers: pharmaceutical and chemical companies or universities
- Education: chemistry degrees, M.L.S. (Optional)
- Organization: ACS Chemical Information Division (CINF) ([www.acs.org/divisions/div\\_cinf.html](http://www.acs.org/divisions/div_cinf.html))



# Indexers and Abstracters

- Summarize scientific documents
  - ◆ What are the main points of the document?
  - ◆ What are the correct controlled vocabulary terms?
  - ◆ How will people find the information they need when they search?



# Indexers and Abstracters

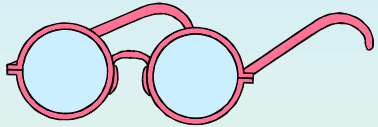
- Employers: database vendors, companies, publishers, self-employment
- Education: science degrees
- Organization: American Society of Indexers ([www.asindexing.org](http://www.asindexing.org))





# Competitive Intelligence

- Ethically and legally monitors competitors' activities
  - ◆ What is the competition publishing?
  - ◆ What are analysts saying?
  - ◆ What information is available from the government?





# Competitive Intelligence

- Employers: companies, self-employment
- Education: military or government, science or business degrees
- Organization: Society for Competitive Intelligence Professionals (SCIP)  
([www.scip.org](http://www.scip.org))



# Technical Editors



- Edit technical documents
  - ◆ Does the document conform to standards?
  - ◆ Is the grammar and spelling correct?
  - ◆ Is it understandable?
  - ◆ Is it formatted correctly?



# Technical Editors

- Employers: publishers, companies, self-employment
- Education: science or humanities degrees
- Organization: Society for Technical Communication ([www.stc.org](http://www.stc.org))



# Computer Programmers

- Develop databases and tools
  - ◆ Can it be made structure searchable?
  - ◆ What do chemists need?
  - ◆ Is it easy to use?



# Computer Programmers

- Employers: database vendors, companies, universities, consultants
- Education: science or computing degrees
- Organization: ACS Division of Computers in Chemistry  
([membership.acs.org/C/COMP/](http://membership.acs.org/C/COMP/))

# Salaries



- Science information professionals in industrial or commercial settings earn a similar amount, as other chemists (\$72,500 vs. \$74,500).
- In the academic sector science information professional earn 20% less than other chemists (\$46,000 vs. \$58,000).

Source: *Salary Survey 2000: Science Information With a Focus on Chemistry*, Patricia O'Neill, in Press.



# Common Traits

- Strong science background
- Attention to detail
- Customer service
- Communication skills
- Computer skills
- Flexibility





# Alternative Careers in Chemistry

- There are non-laboratory careers which require chemistry degrees.
- Chemical information careers offer various opportunities to suit different skills and personalities.
- Find what suits you.