

***Opportunity Knocks:***  
*Chemical information careers  
in industry*

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# Outline

- Review my educational background
- Review my career experience
- Review chemical information career opportunities in industry
- Provide career resources and strategies
- Share lessons learned
- Answer your questions

# Educational Background

- Fairfield University (Fairfield, CT)  
1984-88: B.S. in Biology with Minors in Chemistry & Communications
- University of Connecticut (Farmington, CT)  
1988-90: School of Medicine
- Sacred Heart University (Fairfield, CT)  
1994-99: M.S. in Chemistry with Certificate in Environmental Chemistry

# Career Experience

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# Chemical Abstract Service (CAS)



## 1991-93: Northeastern Account Representative

- Worked from personal home office in CT
- Reported to Sales Manager in Columbus, OH
- Serviced accounts in New England / New York area (mostly chemical, pharmaceutical, & academic)
- Trained chemists & information professionals with STN Online searching
- Developed new business accounts including biotechnology sector in Cambridge, MA

# Bayer Healthcare



**1993-96: Associate Information Scientist**

**1996-98: Information Scientist**

- Worked at Pharmaceutical Research Center in West Haven, CT
- Reported to Library Manager
- Performed chemical / biological / patent searches
- Administered & supported Beilstein Crossfire
- Trained chemists with CAS / STN Online searching
- Traveled to Headquarters in Germany

# Bristol-Myers Squibb



**1998-2001: Patent Analyst**

**2001-2003: Knowledge Management Consultant**

- Worked at Pharmaceutical Research Institute in Wallingford, CT
- Performed chemical / patent searches for Patent Attorneys & Chemists
- Administered & supported CAS Scifinder at 5 US Research sites
- Designed & implemented Patent Information website
- Designed & implemented websites for over 100 global project teams

# Cytec Industries



## 2003- : Manager, Technical Information Center

- Work at Technology Center in Stamford, CT
- Report to VP of Specialty Chemicals R&D
- Manage budget, subscriptions, & technical archive
- Designed & launched new virtual library including electronic journals, patents, & online resources
- Hired & trained new Associate Information Scientist
- Launched CAS Scifinder at 4 global research sites
- Led Project Team that designed & implemented Knowledge Management across global R&D



# Chemical Information Careers in Industry



# Chemical Information Careers in Industry

## *Opportunities include:*

- Vendor Representative (Sales / Marketing / Training)
- Publishing (Product Development / Editorial)
- Information Scientist (Searcher / Analyst)
- Information Technology (Website, Database , & Application Development)
- Research Librarian (Operations / Management)
- Others

# Career Resources

- ACS Chemical Information Division (CINF)  
<http://www.acscinf.org/cinf>
- Patent Information Users Group (PIUG)  
<http://www.piug.org>
- Special Libraries Association (SLA)  
<http://www.sla.org>
- Monster <http://www.monster.com>
- Company Websites
- Recruiters

# Career Strategies

The background features a solid blue color. In the lower right quadrant, there is an abstract graphic consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent rectangular shapes in various shades of blue and white. A thick, black, brush-like stroke curves across the bottom of the page, starting from the left and moving towards the right.

# Career Strategies

*Important questions to ask yourself:*

- What job interests me most & best fits my personality?
- What industry do I want to work in (chemical, pharma, vendor, etc.)?
- Do I want to work outside the lab?
- Do I like working with people?
- Do I adapt well to change?

# Career Strategies

*Important questions to ask yourself:*

- Do I want to work at a large or small company?
- Do I want to be in 1 location or travel?
- Where can I learn new skills?
- Where can I grow my career?
- Where do I want to be in 3 to 5 years?

# Career Strategies

## *15 Useful Career Be's:*

- Be prepared & direct at interview
- Be a hunter for information
- Be creative & proactive
- Be constantly challenged
- Be networked with peers & colleagues (internal & external)

# Career Strategies

## *15 Useful Career Be's:*

- Be aligned with your management
- Be open to feedback & suggestions
- Be a valuable contributor
- Be a reliable resource for others
- Be an agent for change



# Career Strategies

## *15 Useful Career Be's:*

- Be willing to take risks
- Be learning & applying new skills
- Be striving for improvement
- Be looking for growth opportunities
- Be in control of your career

# Lessons Learned

- Never refuse an interview
- Develop new skills at each job
- Market your skills effectively
- Keep current with new technology
- Get people the information they need when they need it
- Set achievable goals & hit them
- Know when to leave

# Quote

"Small or large, the mission of the company library is the same: to select, obtain, store, and disseminate pertinent technical information to those who need it, as rapidly and efficiently as possible."

Harold S. Sharp, Technical Librarian  
General Motors, A.C. Spark Plug Division  
*Industrial Laboratories, November 1959*

# Answer Your Questions

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