

April 1998

Chemistry Bestsellers 1996/1997

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Recommended Citation

Crowell, Francois (1998) "Chemistry Bestsellers 1996/1997," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 10: Iss. 2, Article 22.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.2841>

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Chemistry Bestsellers 1996/1997

by Françoise Crowell (Bibliographer, YBP)

Column Editor: **Bob Nardini** (Regional Vice President, Collection Management & Development Group, YBP) <nardini@YBP.com>



We think those selectors who put to use our earlier "Physics Bestsellers" list will find just as handy this list for Chemistry, a field if anything even more abstruse than Physics. Once more, the object is to allow those library selectors who do not have a strong science background to draw upon the expertise of those who do. In **Library of Congress subclass QD Chemistry**, these fifty books represent the top 12 percent in sales at **Yankee Book Peddler** during our 1996/97 fiscal year, the titles most often selected by our approval plan and firm order customers. For those librarians, like ourselves, who might not know a "chiral sulfur reagent" from a "giant molecule," just two of these bestselling topics, we hope our list can be a tool to aid in evaluating and strengthening local holdings.

Alberty, Robert A. *Physical Chemistry*. 2nd Ed. John Wiley, 1997. 0471104280 cloth \$88.57

Armour, M.A. (Margaret-Ann). *Hazardous Laboratory Chemicals Disposal Guide*. 2nd Ed. Lewis, 1996. 1566701082 other \$89.95

Atkins, P.W. (Peter William), 1940- *Molecular Quantum Mechanics*. 3rd Ed. Oxford Univ Press, 1997. 0198559488 cloth \$70.00

Atwood, Jim D., 1950- *Inorganic And Organometallic Reaction Mechanisms*. 2nd Ed. Wiley-VCH, 1997. 0471188972 cloth \$59.95

Bailey, Patrick D. *OrganoNitrogen Chemistry*. Oxford Univ Press, 1996. 0198557752 paper \$11.95

Bensaude-Vincent, Bernadette. *History of Chemistry*. Harvard Univ Press, 1996. 0674396596 cloth \$35.00

Bovey, Frank Alden, 1918- *NMR of Polymers*. Academic, 1996. 0121197654 cloth \$95.00

Breslow, Ronald. *Chemistry Today and Tomorrow: The Central, Useful, Creative Science*. Amer Chemical Society, 1997. 0841234604 paper \$20.64

Chemistry Under Extreme or Non-Classical Conditions; Ed. By Rudi VanEldik. John Wiley, 1997. 0471165611 cloth \$99.00

Compton, Richard G. *Electrode Potentials*. Oxford Univ Press, 1996. 0198556845 paper \$12.95

Concise Encyclopedia: Biochemistry And Molecular Biology; 3rd Ed. Ed. By Thomas A. Scott. Walter De Gruyter, 1997. 3110145359 cloth \$99.95

CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics: A Ready-Reference Book of Chemical and Physical Data; 78th Ed. Ed. By David R. Lide. CRC Press, 1997. 0849304784 cloth \$119.00

CRC Handbook of Solid State Electrochemistry; Ed. By P.J. Gellings. CRC Press, 1997. 0849389569 cloth \$99.95

Dictionary of Chemistry; Ed. By John Daintith. 3rd Ed. Oxford Univ. Press, 1996.

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0192800310 paper \$12.95

Dynamics of Molecules and Chemical Reactions; Ed. By Robert E. Wyatt. Marcel Dekker, 1996. 0824795385 cloth \$150.00

Elias, Hans-Georg. *Introduction to Polymer Science*. Wiley-VCH, 1997. 3527287906 cloth \$69.95

Energetics of Organic Free Radicals; Ed. By Jose Artur Martinho Simoes. Blackie/Chapman & Hall, 1996. 0751403784 cloth \$89.95

Fisher, A.C. *Electrode Dynamics*. Oxford Univ Press, 1996. 019855690x paper \$12.95

Frenkel, Daan, 1948- *Understanding Molecular Simulation: From Algorithms to Applications*. Academic, 1996. 0122673700 cloth \$65.00

Fuzzy Logic in Chemistry; Ed. By Dennis H. Rouvray. Academic, 1997. 0125989105 cloth \$80.00

Glassman, Irving. *Combustion*. 3rd Ed. Academic, 1996. 0122858522 cloth \$69.95

Grosberg, Alexander Y. *Giant Mol-*

ecules: Here, There, and Everywhere. Academic, 1997. 0123041309 cloth \$39.95

Grunwald, Ernest, 1923- *Thermodynamics of Molecular Species*. John Wiley, 1997. 0471012548 cloth \$64.95

Handbook of Physical Properties of Organic Chemicals; Ed. By Philip H. Howard. Lewis, 1997. 1566702275 cloth \$159.00

Harvey, Ronald G., 1927- *Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons*. Wiley-VCH, 1997. 0471186082 cloth \$125.00

Harwood, Laurence M. *Introduction to Organic Spectroscopy*. Oxford Univ Press, 1997. 0198557558 paper \$12.95

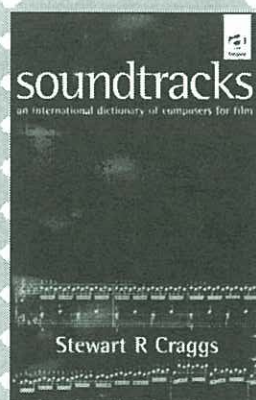
Hiemenz, Paul C., 1936- *Principles of Colloid and Surface Chemistry*. 3rd Ed. Marcel Dekker, 1997. 0824793978 cloth \$65.00

Hoch, Jeffrey C. *NMR Data Processing*. Wiley-Liss, 1996. 0471039004 cloth \$67.50

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Oregon Trails

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Principles

Before outsourcing, a library should know why such a move is being contemplated. Is there a lack of expertise, as in the collection development example where language skills are lacking? Has there been a reduction in staff that endangers a service? Or is there a service that the library wants to provide but lacks the staff? Or is there a combination of circumstances that dictates a reorganization and offers the opportunity to do things differently? Sometimes this is a new administrator, sometimes it is the result of changes initiated from outside the library. Whatever the reason, outsourcing can provide answers, solutions, and opportunities without costing someone's job although the job might change.

Once outsourcing becomes an option, it is important to involve as many of the staff as possible and not in a perfunctory manner either. Consider that everyone on staff can offer something to the planning process, even those who tend to see the dark side of things.

If there are to be layoffs or reassignments, honesty is the best policy and the personnel department can be your best friend. The presence of a bargaining unit further complicates matters. It is beyond the scope of this paper to discuss this issue and those needing to address it should probably start with the personnel department of their institution. Each staff member will have a different expectation. A well-defined and executed planning process will develop some common expectations that will be the cornerstones for implementation of the plan.

Practices

Who is going to provide the service that is

being contracted out and how long is it going to take to make the selection? Is a request for proposal (RFP) necessary? Who will prepare it, who will receive it, and how will the vendor be selected, that is, what are the criteria that will be used to measure the capabilities of the vendors who respond to the RFP? How long is the selection process to take and what will be the implementation period? How will success be measured; how will quality be controlled?

Quality control and critical thinking are important all the time, but especially when changes are being made and especially when the library is contracting out for those services. Agreeing in advance about quality and other expectations helps ensure a fair evaluation of the service provider and other changes that will result from contracting out.

The library and the vendor must both know what the rules are in advance. A contract that both parties help draw up is essential, not just to avoid the Hawaii syndrome, but so that each party is aware of its own and its partner's obligations and what to do when something goes wrong. No matter how well something is planned, things go wrong. Unforeseen circumstances arise. Perfection is in the mind's eye; reality is in the workplace. Aim for consistently high quality and look for patterns. Be prepared to work out the rough spots without hauling the vendor onto the **Jerry Springer** show. We should not be in that kind of business. You shouldn't even want your project plastered on the editorial page of *LJ* because if it is, you have not done your job.

Perils

Change equals risk and the future is unknown, but, as **Thoreau** reminds us, "A man sits as many risks as he runs." What are the risks entailed when contracting for services and how can we predict them when we cannot see into the future?

A thorough cost analysis is one way to discover hidden costs but be prepared to discover others that were unclear or unseen at the time the contract was awarded. Cost analysis is necessary if you want to reduce the number of surprises waiting for you in your outsourcing venture. There are one-time costs and those are usually the easiest to identify. But don't forget about

continuing costs — maintenance, inflation, upgrades. Be honest to yourself and your boss. Cost benefits cannot always (or ever?) be measured in dollars but invoices can.

Make lists of benchmarks and qualify those benchmarks, even if you have to make up some problems. Not floods, earthquakes, tornadoes — not even El Nino will suffice — but vacations, competing projects, priorities, etc., are facts of life and ought to be factored in. What are your worst fears? Put them on paper and talk about them. This is where those of dark-vision can be most useful. But don't let them discourage you. Regular meetings can be used

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Jeffrey, George A., 1915- *Introduction to Hydrogen Bonding*. Oxford Univ Press, 1997. 0195095480 cloth \$60.00

Kirby, A.J. *Stereoelectronic Effects*. Oxford Univ Press, 1996. 0198558937 paper \$11.95

Lawrence, Charles. *Foundations of Physical Chemistry*. Oxford Univ Press, 1996. 0198559046 paper \$11.95

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Mikolajczyk, Marian. *Chiral Sulfur Reagents: Applications in Asymmetric and Stereoselective Synthesis*. CRC Press, 1997. 0849391202 cloth \$94.95

Noguera, Claudine. *Physics and Chemistry at Oxide Surfaces*. Cambridge Univ

Press, 1996. 0521472148 cloth \$69.95

Nye, Mary Jo. *Before Big Science: The Pursuit of Modern Chemistry and Physics; 1800-1940*. Twayne, 1996. 080579512x cloth \$32.95

Poirier, Jean Pierre. *Lavoisier: Chemist, Biologist, Economist*. Univ. of Pennsylvania Pr, 1997. 0812233654 cloth \$49.95

Preparative Carbohydrate Chemistry; Ed. By Stephen Hanessian. Marcel Dekker, 1997. 0824798023 cloth \$150.00

Quinkert, Gerhard. *Aspects of Organic Chemistry: Structure*. Wiley-VCH, 1996. 3906390152 cloth \$98.00

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Roesky, Herbert W. *Chemical Curiosities: Spectacular Experiments and Inspired Quotes*. Wiley-VCH, 1996. 3527294147 cloth \$39.95

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bridge Univ Press, 1996. 0521496365 cloth \$115.00

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Stable Carbocation Chemistry; Ed. By G.K. Surya Prakash. John Wiley, 1997. 0471594628 cloth \$84.95

Stone, A.J. (Anthony J.) *Theory of Intermolecular Forces*. Clarendon/Oxford, 1996. 0198558848 cloth \$90.00

Swaddle, T.W. (Thomas Wilson). *Inorganic Chemistry: An Industrial and Environmental Perspective*. Academic, 1997. 0126785503 cloth \$65.00

Verkade, John G., 1935- *Pictorial Approach to Molecular Bonding and Vibrations*. 2nd Ed. Springer-Verlag, 1997. 0387948112 cloth \$59.95

Wayne, Carol E. *Photochemistry*. Oxford Univ Press, 1996. 0198558864 paper \$11.95