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Introducing ANSA-ISI's Automatic New Structure Alert-A Compound-Retrieval Service for People More Interested in Compounds than Retrieval!

May 9, 1973

ISI® has inaugurated ANSA — the Auto matic New Structure Alert. ANSA is an extension in the area of synthetic chemistry of ISI's ASCA® service. However, in addition to the usual bibliographic data on relevant articles the ANSA report gives detailed information on new compounds. The monthly ANSA reports are also keyed to abstracts in ISI's Current Abstracts of Chemistry. 1,2 In this way the subscriber has immediate access to structure and reaction flow diagrams.

As chemists know only too well, the literature contains a lot of new compounds. In this issue of Current Contents we have reprinted a recent paper from Nature<sup>3</sup>, in which we provide some vital statistics on the 1.2 million compounds added to our chemical data base (Index Chemicus ®) during the 1960's. This is more than were reported from the 19th century beginnings of organic chemistry to the end of World War II! During the '60's, the average number of compounds reported each week was about 2,300. And the pace of chemical synthesis continues to increase. In 1970 and 1971, the weekly average had jumped to 3,300.

It should not be necessary to repeat why it is not practical for Current Contents or ASCA alone to provide in-depth sub-structure correlations. 4.5 While it is possible to look for this kind of information in our Chemical Substructure Index ® some prefer a computer system.

ANSA is unique in several ways. To my knowledge it is the only commercially available system. Although the CAS registry system has had millions in subsidies it does not yet offer either an SDI or retrospective search capability. We think ANSA is inexpensive. If you are used to free service then \$100 per year may not grab you, but considering the cost of numerous systems reported in the literature it is a bargain. Just as ASCA6 gets a free ride on SCI®, ANSA gets a free ride on

CAC/IC™.

ANSA has been working at ISI for more than two years. The data base on which it is based has been used on a routine basis by numerous industrial firms. We think it has been adequately tested. Perhaps the most important feature of the service is that you don't have to know anything about computers or notations systems. Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find more detailed information on testing and subscribing to ANSA.

The introduction of ANSA coincides with a program ISI has launched to get chemistry departments at universities into the computer age. Similar files are being made available so that students who have the inclination to combine computer know-how with creative synthetic chemistry or pharmacology can provide similar sub-structure correlations for their department colleagues. With all the millions that the government has poured into chemical information systems, not one cent has gone into improving educational IR curricula. We hope this will be a start.

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