

## Using Print Sources to find synthesis information

Why go to a print source?

Print sources compile the best available data for the most often used chemicals. They are better than databases for physical property data and provide good summaries.

**Note:** They can be hard to use so it is best to go to a database, such as SciFinder Scholar, to get the CAS Registry Number then go to a print source for more information. Each book contains a relatively small number of chemicals so you may have to try more than one.

The following are useful print sources:

### **CRC Handbook of Chemistry & Physics**

---

Latest edition is kept at the Vanier Reference Desk.

Consult earlier editions, at Vanier Reference **QD 65 H3**. Basic data such as density, melting and boiling points, do not change from year to year.

Handbook with a plethora of information. Contains many tables, including *Physical Constants of Organic Compounds*, and conversion tables. Also has definitions and nomenclature information. It is necessary to use the Table of Contents to navigate this book.

### **Dictionary of Organic Compounds**

---

Found at Vanier Reference **QD 476 D5**

An important resource in Organic Chemistry. The 1996 edition covers over 140,000 substances. Includes structures, physical properties and references to the literature. Entries often include citations to synthesis information.

### **The Merck Index**

---

Latest edition is kept at the Reference Desks of both libraries

Consult earlier editions at Vanier Reference **RS 51 M4**.

Provides data and related references for over 10,000 compounds having pharmacological properties. Includes references to the literature, property data and some structures. Medical and non-medical uses also mentioned. Some entries include citations to synthesis information.

More information and search tips can be found on the  
Chemistry & Biochemistry Research Guide, where a page has been created for this course:  
<http://library.concordia.ca/research/subjects/chemistry>