

## IUPACSEARCH 1.0 (for DOS)

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IUPACSEARCH (version 1.0) is a bibliographic database that provides summaries of nomenclature and symbol recommendations, as well as technical reports, published in *Pure and Applied Chemistry* from 1960–1992. References to basic IUPAC nomenclature books are also included.

Searching the database is analogous to CD-ROM products in that, after selecting an appropriate option (e.g. IUPAC Body/Year or Keywords), one is offered a list of categories. Selection of a particular category then allows one to enter a term of interest, and, if found, the number of occurrences is displayed. As an aside, the number of occurrences (count) often does not agree with the number of retrieved records. Selecting the term then retrieves the relevant records, which are displayed in chronological order.

Options available under IUPAC Body/Year include the following: Division/Section, Commission, Standing Committee, Division + Commission, Access Number, and Year of Recommendation. Options available under Keywords include the following: Abstract + Title, Title and Author.

Selecting Mercury, for example, in the Keyword/Title category retrieves 10 records of which three are the successively updated procedures for the determination of mercury content of foodstuffs published in 1965, 1979, and 1984.

Superseded records do not consistently note that updated recommendations are available and also do not include direct references to the most recent version. For example, there are entries for the 1970 and 1979 editions of the *Manual of Symbols and Terminology for Physicochemical Quantities and Units*. While there is a note in the record for the 1979 edition, "superseded 1988 book form", it omits mention that the title has changed to *Quantities, Units and Symbols in Physical Chemistry*. As an aside, the current version was published in 1993.

The product is obviously useful, and the cost is also very reasonable in that "IUPAC grants to the purchaser/user of IUPACSEARCH the right to copy the diskette and make it available to others for scientific purposes". Hopefully future editions will eliminate the outdated recommendations or, at the least, give direct references to the current version.

IUPACSEARCH is an executable program with the following minimum hardware and software requirements: IBM PC or equivalent, high-density disk drive, computer RAM of 640 kbytes or greater, DOS 3.30 or later, hard disk with 4.5 Mbytes of memory available, a printer connected to a parallel port; color monitor desirable.