

deliver current scientific information. Further, computers will become an integral part of the laboratory complex, permitting research data to be entered directly into large memory banks. Thus, the total information base, composed of data received from outside secondary services and laboratory data generated by current industrial research programs, will be directly accessible with a minimum of manual manipulation. To translate our growing base of knowledge into new ideas, a new breed of information scientist will emerge. He will be highly skilled in his field and possess a unique ability to refine a large body of data and information into constructive ideas that lead to new products and new services. The information scientist will work very closely with his laboratory counterpart, who will begin to recognize the true potential of information work. There will also be a greater professional recognition of the information scientist, and the opportunities open to him.

Both scientists and managers will want and need closer interaction with the information base. Advances in computer technology will permit them to interact with current information on a conversational basis. The use of remote terminals will be commonplace.

Computers will also have their impact on management. One significant application of computers will be in the simulation of decision situations. The manager or businessman will be able to test the consequences of his decision before he proceeds to implement them. He will draw upon current information which will be continuously updated in a large memory bank. Computer technology will also permit direct interaction between the manager

and his information. Further, not only will information be provided by the computer system, but it will alert the user to the need for decisions regarding current operations.

These represent but a few considerations of the future. They suggest, however, that while information operations will remain an important part of the total research and management process, their character will shift from what is more or less a service orientation to one which is directly keyed to planning and control functions and the decision-making process and, in turn, to the planning, implementation, and maintenance of even more sophisticated information systems.

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## Operation of Du Pont's Central Patent Index\*

LESLIE E. RASMUSSEN and JAMES G. VAN OOT

Information Systems Division, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington, Del., 19898

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**The Central Patent Index is one of many information centers constituting Du Pont's Information Network. The development of this index and its relationship with other centers in the network is followed by a description of its operation: input, storage, and search techniques.**

A description of the operation of Du Pont's Central Patent Index is best preceded by a brief description of the corporate structure of Du Pont, since the services of this Index are provided at the corporate level.

**Du Pont's Corporate Structure.** Each of the twelve industrial departments of Du Pont (Figure 1) operate with considerable autonomy, but under the general policies set by the Corporate Executive Committee. These industrial departments all have research, manufacturing,

and sales organizations for Du Pont products. Most of these products—e.g., synthetic fibers, molding resins—are sold to other processing companies before they reach the ultimate consumer; some others—e.g., paints—are produced directly for retail sale.

The thirteen staff departments centralize activity in fields which, as in the case of the industrial departments, are largely defined by the name of the department. While most of these functions are carried out directly by the industrial departments, each of them finds that it is to their advantage to have much of this activity performed on a centralized basis.

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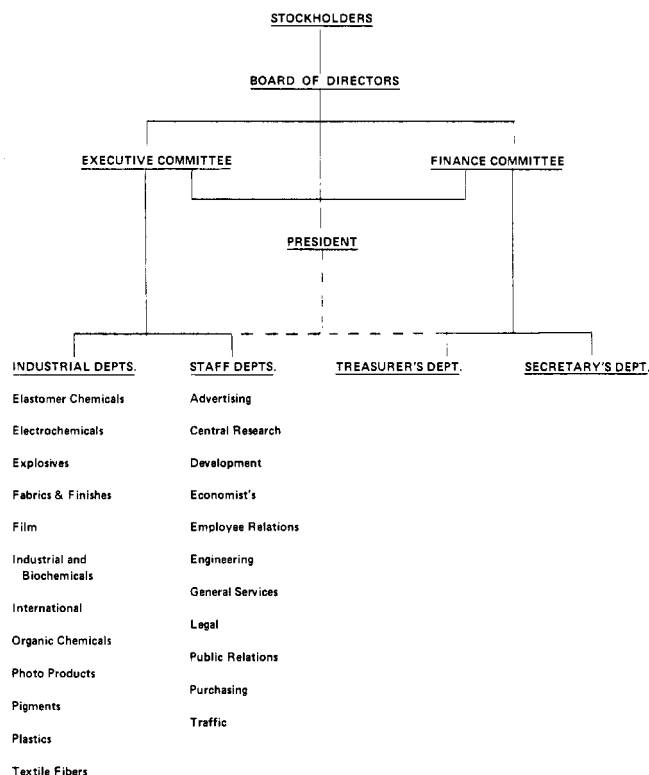


Figure 1. Organization of E. I. du Pont de Nemours &amp; Co., Inc.

The corporate Treasurer and Secretary head departments which are responsible for maintaining the financial and nonfinancial records, respectively, of the company. The Secretary's Department serves as the secretariat for the Board of Directors and its committees, and is concerned with stockholders relations and real estate. Information activities in the Secretary's Department are carried out by the Technical Library and the Information Systems Division.

**Du Pont's Information Network.** The Information Systems Division is a major information center at the corporate level, which, along with other information centers, forms Du Pont's information network. These other centers range from the one-man operation serving an individual laboratory or office unit to the larger centers or libraries on a divisional or departmental level. The Lavoisier Library, for example, operated by the Central Research Department, is a library covering scientific literature and has more than 65,000 volumes, a subscription list of more than 1500 titles, and a staff of 28 people, of which 11 are professional.

The smaller and intermediate sized information centers and libraries serving specific site locations are usually specialized according to the interests of the personnel they serve. Several of these centers are administered by the Secretary's Department, or are staffed by personnel on Secretary's Department rolls. Thus, there are both decentralized departmental centers and centralized corporate information services in Du Pont's information network.

**Information Systems Division.** Let us now return to the organization of the Information Systems Division (Figure 2).

The Product Information Section provides a nationwide network for answering questions directed to Du Pont by its customers, potential customers, and vendors.<sup>5</sup>

Our Vital Records Section stores all important company records in a large subterranean vault, so that technical and personnel records or physical facilities of any unit of the company could be reconstructed in case of disaster. Most of these records are microfilmed for storage, and the microfilming services of the section assist importantly in allowing other information storage problems in the company.

The Hall of Records Section is an archival storage facility for the records, which must be kept for varying lengths of time. Some records must be maintained "forever," while others have a useful life of from 2 to 50 years. In addition to storage, all of these records must be reviewed periodically to determine need for continued storage.

The Development Section consists primarily of information consultants and information systems designers, who are responsible for advising other units of the company of new developments in the information field. They are our insurance that we are taking optimum advantage of the available equipment and new techniques. The computer programmers in the section are thoroughly familiar with information storage techniques. Keyboarding services and liaison with computer operators in our Treasurer's Department are also provided by the Development Section.

Our New Information Services Section is concerned with establishing and operating additional information centers in the company, and making use of information sources outside of Du Pont. Some of the centers now operating are concerned with commercial and business information, chemical and physical properties of materials, information on analytical test methods, and engineering design. Our On-Site Information personnel are scientists or engineers trained in information transfer techniques, and they are assigned to various offices or laboratories to provide information assistance and services to the site personnel.

Our Central Report Index Section is concerned with the indexing and retrieval of information in technical and scientific reports generated within Du Pont.<sup>4</sup>

#### CENTRAL PATENT INDEX

The Central Index is concerned with worldwide patent information. In addition to operating an information search system for the patent literature, it is also responsible for a current awareness function in the same field. Our

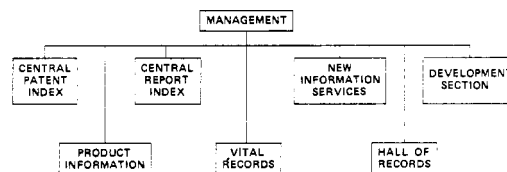


Figure 2. Organization of the Information Systems Division

primary concern is with the identification of patents relative to an inquiry. In providing this service, we supplement the legal functions of the patent personnel of the several departments concerned with the filing of applications, patent licenses, etc. The Central Patent Index is not involved directly in these legal matters.

Du Pont has been concerned with modern information handling since the early 1950's. In those days our Textile Fibers and Film Departments,<sup>6</sup> followed by our Central Research Department, established the first report information units based on concept coordination searching techniques. During the period 1955-1962, other departments established information centers using this concept coordination approach.

In 1964, considerable strides were made toward centralization of Du Pont information in the Information Systems Division with the formation of the Central Patent Index (CPI), the Central Report Index, and the Development Section. The primary justification for centralizing patent documentation activities was to eliminate the large amount of duplication of effort by the several departments when each was abstracting and indexing the patents relating to its own technology. The community of interests among the departments in many areas of chemistry and engineering, especially in the field of polymers, had resulted before the formation of CPI in as many as ten departments abstracting and classifying the same patent.

Since 1964 there has been continued consolidation and growth of the Information Systems Division. For example, on January 1, 1969, the patent information work which had been under the management of our Central Research Department was transferred to the Central Patent Index in the Secretary's Department. This work is concerned primarily with non-U. S. patent documentation and the publication of patent bulletins for current awareness within Du Pont. The procedures previously used for foreign patent documentation are now being revised; this paper therefore will be limited to a discussion of our U. S. patent documentation operations.

**Input Operations.** Each week the *Official Gazette* of the U. S. Patent Office is reviewed by personnel responsible for patent activities in the departments throughout Du Pont. They specify to the Central Patent Index which patents should be input to our system. In many cases, it has already been established that all patents issuing in some classes and sub-classes must go in. Individual patents are ordered to supplement these class orders. Our patent analysts, some of whom have become subject specialists, prepare an abstract and index the important concepts in each patent. About 20,000 U. S. patents are indexed and added to our file each year.

Links are not used in our patent indexing. Roles are used only on chemical terms.<sup>7</sup> Three fundamental roles are employed to designate reactant, product of a reaction, and physically processed or "just there." In addition, a set of roles is superimposed on these three fundamental roles to provide discriminating retrieval in the indexing of polymers.<sup>2</sup>

The abstracts are filed and can be retrieved by inventor, assignee, and number. The information on the indexing sheet is keyboarded. Chemical compounds are further fragmented, and the information is keyboarded for input and storage in computer tapes.

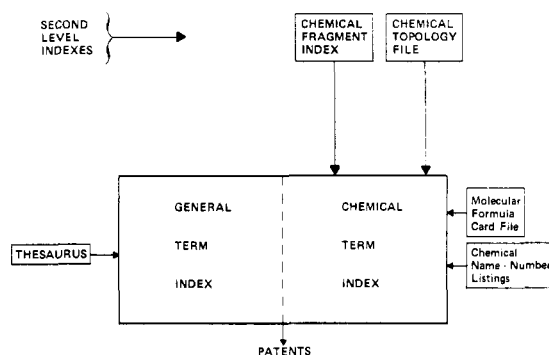


Figure 3. Schematic file organization of Central Patent Index

**Index Structure.** The computer-based index to patents utilizes essentially the same programs as the index to company reports, as described by Montague and Schirmer.<sup>4</sup> Major differences in procedures between the report and patent indexes include:

1. Purchase of 16-mm. microfilm of patents *vs.* our own preparation of microfiche copies of reports.
2. Use of a topological chemical structure system<sup>3</sup> for both input and search for reports; reliance on a chemical fragmentation system for search in the patent index, due to the largely generic nature of description of chemicals in patents. The patent index does use the topological system to register specific chemicals, i.e., to determine if the chemical has been encountered before, and assign it a registry number as unique identification.
3. Abstracts are not at present recorded in machine-readable form in the patent index.

The basic part of the patent index is represented by the large lower box in Figure 3. We make an arbitrary intellectual separation of our total file of what we call general—i.e., nonchemical—terms and chemical terms. Each of these is represented as an inverted file index to the patents. In the general term file, the patent numbers are listed under the alphabetical concepts as shown in Figure 4. Each chemical compound is assigned a C or chemical number. C-numbers are also assigned to generic families of compounds when they are described generically, e. g., by Markush Structure, in the patent. This number then becomes the chemical term to which all of the pertinent patent numbers are posted, as shown in Figure 5. This shows, for example, that Compound No. 37199 has been used as an indexing term in roles 10, 20, and 30 for the patents shown in each group. Role 30 indicates that there is information about the preparation of this compound in patent No. 3,349,073.

Chemical terms are readily identified in most cases by maintaining a chemical name-C-number list. This name-number list is presented both alphabetically (Figure 6) and numerically (Figure 7). Input may be made for any name on the list; if by the latter route, the computer will convert the name to the C-number for storage.

We do not require the use of *Chemical Abstracts* preferred nomenclature. If a chemical concept is not located readily in the alphabetical listing of unambiguous names, the patent analyst can determine the C-number for the chemi-

CP 1-PC	GENERAL TERM / DOCUMENT FILE		01-21-69	PAGE 4473
REFRIGERANTS		/CONTINUED/		
00	03375177	03375197	03377287	03379031
	03383881	03388968	03393152	03394878
	20884902	51137990	51155673	51177595
	51200693	51203820	51255119	51264021
	51379042	51462866	60674661	60682624
...-132-				
REFRIGERATION				
00	03140931	03140932	03140933	03140971
	03141206	03143406	03154604	03162090
	03164816	03167423	03168591	03169068
	03169928	03173747	03173766	03173872
	03173936	03174293	03175758	03178899
	03180709	03182884	03185154	03192169
	03192732	03196528	03197844	03198390
	03205216	03212281	03212538	03212538
	03216212	03218259	03218817	03218817
	03222210	03222742	03222435	03222435
	03224207	03224207	03225517	03225517
	03229478	03229478	03232017	03232017
	03234109	03234109	03234109	03234109
	03237416	03237416	03237416	03237416
	03241917	03241917	03241917	03241917

Figure 4. Inverted file—general terms

CP1-PC	COMPOUND NO. / DOCUMENT FILE		01-21-69	PAGE 4933
03719.				
10	03386935		*****1	
037195				
71	03253941		*****1	
037199				
10	03141047	03146112	03159646	03162703
	03164026	03188303	03189549	03195302
	03197525	03202307	03205098	03211677
	03213071	03214234	03215648	03217642
	03219635	03223654	03227665	03228919
	03239481	03240762	03240844	03242108
	03244721	03257482	03271119	03278329
	03293074	03293108	03294602	21005203
20	03211677	03213071	03214234	03217642
	03223654	03225127	03271119	03278329
30	03349073		*****2	

Figure 5. Inverted file—chemical terms, expressed as compound numbers

807	GLYCOCOLL
309	GLYCOL
8881	GLYCOL 565
10024	GLYCOLALDEHYDE
76673	GLYCOLAMIDE, N,N'-HEXAMETHYLENEBIS-
1529	GLYCOLIC ACID
13025	GLYCOLIC ACID, BUTYL ESTER
11715	GLYCOLIC ACID, NITRILOTRI-
1711	GLYCOLIC ACID, SODIUM SALT
34647	GLYCOLIC ACID, THIODI-
4471	GLYCOLONITRILE
935	GLYCOLURIL
36202	GLYCOMUL" L
15394	GLYCOMUL" Q
52521	GLYCOMUL" P
52872	GLYCOMUL" S
4109	GLYCONIC ACID
2084	GLYME
1742	GLYOXAL
13437	GLYOXAL, PHENYL-
10020	GLYOXALIC ACID
9300	GLYOXIME, DICHLORO-
9237	GLYOXIME, DIMETHYL-
10020	GLYXYLIC ACID

Figure 6. Chemical name—number list, alphabetical order

cal, if it has been encountered before in our index, by referring to the molecular formula card file. A card (Figure 8) is prepared for each specific chemical entered into our system showing the molecular formula, C-number, structural representation, and usually an unambiguous name. These cards are filed by molecular formula.

Each of the chemical terms is indexed at a second level to chemically identifiable fragments or structural characteristics. In the file, the fragment or structural parts become the terms and the chemical compound numbers are posted to the appropriate terms. Figure 9 shows this by illustrating the chemicals posted to "Fragment" 1323 (organic quaternary amine). There are 1399 organic chemicals—those in the 500,000 series are Markush structures—which have quaternary amine groups in them. Specific chemicals are also stored at a second level by a topological system which records each atom and the bonds between atoms.<sup>3</sup>

All the index files are printed directly from computer to microfilm (Computer Output Microfilm-COM).<sup>1</sup> Instead of having to cope with a seven-foot pile of computer paper printout, we receive 12 microfilm cartridges containing our entire index files. While computer updates

are made monthly, regeneration of the microfilm is done once a quarter, with two monthly supplements provided on paper in between the COM operations.

Our general term vocabulary is open-ended and strictly controlled by a thesaurus of terms illustrated in Figure 10, which shows the relationship among and between the individual term concepts. This is a standard information system thesaurus approach which utilizes "use" and "used for" references, "narrower" and "broader" term references, and "related" term references.

Each of the files shown in Figure 3, with the exception of the molecular formula card file, is maintained on magnetic tape for computer operation and control. Searches by computer can be run against any of these files, using all of the normal Boolean algebra and set-theory logic. The printout of this same information on microfilm also gives us the facility for conducting manual searches. The topological printout is not made, since it is unintelligible except to the system's design people and the specialists in chemical structure indexing.

**Computer Searching.** Let us assume that we are looking for patents dealing with the chlorination of *p*-aminobenzoic acid, or of any acid or ester which has a primary or

# OPERATION OF DU PONT'S CENTRAL PATENT INDEX

	11699	CETYLAMINE
	11699	HEXADECYLAMINE
	11699	PALMITYLAMINE
	11701	AZIRIDINECARBOXAMIDE/1-/ , N,N*-HEXAMETHYLENEBIS-
	11701	HEXAMETHYLENEBIS-1-AZIRIDINECARBOXAMIDE/N,N*-/
	11702	DICHLOROHEXANE/1,5-/
	11702	HEXAMETHYLENE DICHLORIDE
	11702	HEXANE, 1,6-DICHLORO-
R S	11704	HEXANENITRILE
	11704	HEXYL CYANIDE
	11705	DIPALMITOYL MELAMINE/N,N*-/
P T	11705	MELAMINE, N,N*-DIPALMITOYL-
	11709	DIMETHYLDODECABORANE/14-/
	11711	DIBENZYLDIMETHYLAMMONIUM HYDROXIDE
	11715	GLYCOLIC ACID, NITRILOTRI-
	11715	NITRILOTRIGLYCOLIC ACID
	11716	ISUNICOTINIC ACID, METHYL ESTER
	11716	METHYL ISUNICOTINATE
	11718	PROPENESULFONIC ACID/2-/
	11719	ACETIC ACID, NITRILOTRI-
	11719	NITRILOTRIACETIC ACID
	11719	TRIGLYCINE

Figure 7. Chemical name-number list, numerical order


M.F.: C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>9</sub> N <sub>1</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	C- 12890
STRUCTURE-	
	
NAME- AMINOBENZOIC ACID/p-/	

Figure 8. Molecular formula card

FACSIMILE	USE	IMAGES
FACTICES	RT	ELASTOMERS
	RT	RUBBERS
FACTOR S/ANTIBIOTICS/	USE	1-68 ROLES
		STAPHYLOMYCIN
FADEOMETER	BT	INSTRUMENTS
	BT	MEASURING INSTRUMENTS
FADING	RT	DECOLORING
	RT	DETERIORATION
	RT	DISCOLORATION
	RT	DISCOLORATION INHIBITION
	RT	FADEOMETER
	RT	WEAR
FAILURES	USED FOR	DUDS
	RT	BREAKING
	RT	BURSTING
	RT	DEFECTS
	RT	ERRORS

Figure 10. Sample of page from thesaurus of general terms

T Y P E	QUESTION NO.	SEQ. NO.	FILE	TERMS	R O L E	OPERATIONS
2	001	01	PF	01285 (acid)		
2	001	02	PF	03617 (ester)		+
2	001	03	PF	06845 (1-amine)		
2	001	04	PF	12863 (2-amine)		...
8	001	05	PC	C25834 (p-NH <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> COOH)	20	
8	001	06	**	2001	20	+
8	001	07	PG	CHLORINATION		..

Figure 11. Format of question set-up for computer search

file answer to be retained in the computer memory, we designate it as a type 2 question. Similarly, if we want the patent numbers constituting an answer from the compound or general term files stored internally (first-level answer), we designate the question as type 4. A type 4 question is asked when the searcher wants to preserve (store) the results of a preliminary set of Boolean operations basic to an inquiry, and then to process these in a multiplicity of further separate operations to answer several aspects, differing in detail, of the inquiry. If we want a first-level final answer printed out, we use the type 8 designation. Our program will also print out an intermediate answer, if desired, before intersecting this answer with another term to give a final answer.

In the second column, we indicate the use of a question for identity purposes. In the third column, we use a sequence number to order the input cards. In the fourth column, we identify the file which is to be used. PF means we will look in the patent fragmentation file.

The operations will be carried out as follows:

1. (Line 2, plus sign) Unionize C-numbers posted to fragments shown in lines 1 and 2, i.e., group together in one common listing all the C-numbers filed under either of the fragment terms (acid or ester).

2. (Line 4, plus sign) Unionize C-numbers posted to fragments shown in lines 3 and 4, similar to the preceding operation. We now have two unionized listings of C-numbers.

CPI-PF	FRAGMENT NO. / COMPOUND FILE	01-20-69	PAGE	3-68
001323	117417 117418 117495 /CONTINUED/ 117513 117518 117519			
	117449 117481 117815 117847 118055 118114			
	118124 118160 118161 118162 118181 118250			
	118262 118441 118533 118631 118700 118781			
	118840 118850 118855 118966 119131 119346			
	119559 119560 119628 119675 119684 119700			
	119785 119788 119818 119840 119912 120036			
	120182 120205 120311 120322 120390 120434			
	120461 120530 120662 120763 120773 120799			
	120843 121072 121083 121138 121192 121203			
	121243 121354 121361 121363 121550 121625			
	121763 121923 122042 122192 122359 122372			
	122401 122408 122476 122480 122481 122489			
	122512 122519 122529 122626 122639 122813			
	123020 123034 123038 123079 123129 123140			
	123239			11399
001325	009567 015450 054263 055918 073117 087780			
	070014 070049 070102 070104 070172 070230			
	070238 070253 070266 070285 070326 070328			
	070330 070353 070359 070393 070398 070429			
	070421 070437 070440 070522 070522 070522			
	070543 070543 070543 070543 070543 070543			

Figure 9. Second level inverted file—compound numbers posted to fragment numbers

secondary amine group. The Boolean statement would be:

Chlorination and {p-aminobenzoic acid or [(F-acid or F-ester) and (F-primary amine or F-secondary amine)]}  
where F- means "chemicals containing the fragment-"

The question would be set up on a form as shown in Figure 11. The first column headed "type" directs the computer with regard to the type of answer to print out. If we desire to have a list of C-numbers of chemicals containing certain fragments, printed out from the fragment file (second-level answer), we indicate this by designating the question as type 1. If we want a fragment

3. (Line 4, asterisk) Intersect the two unionized listings, i.e., determine which C-numbers are common to both unions.

4. (Line 4, period) Operator indicates the end point for the type 2 question: the computer stores the result of the intersection and labels it question 2001.

Sequence card number five directs the computer to the patent chemical file (PC), where we designate patents posted to a specific chemical number in a given role. In this case, role 20 indicates that the compound we are seeking (*p*-aminobenzoic acid) is a reactant in the chemical reaction (chlorination). The two asterisks in the "file" column on sequence card number six designate the file stored temporarily in the computer memory bank. The number 2001 designates the information which was previously stored as instructed by card number four. The role indication of 20 (reactant) means this role is to be applied to all chemical numbers brought forward by this previous sub-answer.

The operations continue:

5. (Line 6, plus sign) Unionize the patents posted to role 20 under C-number shown in lines 5 and 6, i.e., group together in one common listing all the patent numbers posted to role 20 (reactant) under any of the C-numbers designated by cards 5 and 6. (Actually, this step would be unnecessary in this hypothetical, much simplified example, because C-number 25834 (for *p*-aminobenzoic acid) should be among those C-numbers resulting from the logic directed by cards 1-4).

6. (Line 7, asterisk) Intersect the patent numbers identified in the union just formed with the patent numbers posted to "chlorination" in the general term (PG) file.

7. (Line 7, period) Operator indicates the endpoint for the type 8 question, i.e., the computer is instructed to print out the patent numbers resulting from the last operation (intersection) as the final answer to the inquiry.

#### FUTURE PLANS

After five years of operation, our technical staff of chemists, biologists, and chemical engineers, mostly female, have developed the competence to make reliable searches for our clients. Now that our file has grown to a size (80,000 patents) which produces useful results when searched, we are beginning to provide more useful search answers to our clients. This search experience provides pragmatic guidance in the continuing process of modifying our vocabularies to meet our particular needs. Families of specific terms in our general term file are being combined into the next higher generic when there have been no

inquiries or few patents requiring that degree of specificity. Occasionally, a broader term will be broken into more specific terms. The set of fragments has just undergone its fourth revision to provide more discriminating retrieval of chemical information.

Our Development Section recognizes that the rapidly increasing size of our file will require new computer programs to be able to provide efficient, effective, and cost-acceptable searches several years from now. Fundamental reprogramming is now in progress.

At this writing, the interest shown in patent documentation by commercial information-supplying organizations, and in cooperative activities on an international scale by (primarily) chemical companies and patent offices, gives encouragement to those concerned with, and often frustrated by, the magnitude and diversity of patent documentation problems. The concern caused by the sheer numbers of new patent documents—i.e., including published unexamined applications—making their appearance weekly, is not lessened by the alarming predictions of even larger numbers of issuances over the next few years. A concerted effort to cope with this burgeoning volume of literature, using the most advanced techniques in information retrieval, is required on the part of all concerned with the patent literature. It makes little sense for many separate organizations to continue the duplication of this same effort.

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