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Chemistry

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Polymer Library. EBSCO. ISBN Contact publishers for price.

URL: <http://www.ebscohost.com/>

[Visited Jan'12] *Polymer Library*, produced by the Rubber and Plastics Research Association and formerly called *RAPRA Abstracts* (*RAPRA Abstracts CD-ROM*, CH, Apr.'96, 33-4280), is the largest database devoted entirely to polymers, including plastics, rubbers, starches, elastomers, adhesives, composites, etc., as well as their associated monomers. The database's almost one million records include articles from over 500 journals, technical reports, conference proceedings, and trade publications ranging from 1972 to present, and patents from 1994 to 2006. Some of these publications are not indexed by *Compendex* or Chemical Abstracts' *Scifinder Scholar* <<http://www.cas.org/products/sfacad/index.html>>(CH, Aug'07, 44-6577). *Polymer Library* is somewhat distinctive among primarily science and technology databases because it features unusually deep coverage not only of the scientific and technical aspects of polymers, including additives, properties, testing, synthesis, processing, cultivation, applications, and toxicity along with the associated machinery and equipment, but also equally thorough coverage of the legal, legislative, regulatory, and business aspects of these materials. The database does not offer CAS Registry searching, but it does include very thorough trade name records that can be searched as a separate document type. Because it indexes patents relating to polymers, has such an excellent thesaurus, and provides the International Patent Classification as well as the patent number, it is very useful in providing a supplemental route for finding relevant patent classifications. <p>In comparing the EBSCO and Proquest interfaces for *Polymer Library*, EBSCO offers Visual Search and SmartText capabilities along with other standard EBSCO search functions, while the ProQuest interface supplies a more visible and clearer explanation of the database contents on the top page and more obvious access to the thesaurus. Given the commercial, medical, and scientific importance of these polymers, this is a crucial resource for libraries supporting programs in engineering, materials science, nanotechnology, chemistry, and more.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Students of all levels, researchers/faculty, and professionals/practitioners. – M. A. Manion, *University of Massachusetts at Lowell*

