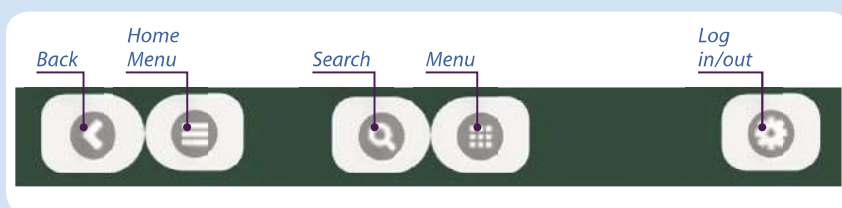


Ch ch ch changes

Keen observers will have noticed that the SSERC website has been undergoing a number of changes over the past few months. For those who haven't spotted them now seems like a suitable time to let you know what we have been up to.



Going mobile

The website as a whole now has a mobile version to make it easier to access on your phone or tablet. While the view is generally similar, there are some differences in navigation.

Here is the home page, after log-in. You will see some unfamiliar icons at the top. Most of these are pretty straightforward: back takes you to the previous page you were on and log in/out and search are self explanatory.

The **Home Menu** button brings up the menu that goes across the top and is the same on all pages. The **Menu** button brings up the menu or menus that appear to the left of each page; these differ from page to page.

There are still a few teething troubles. In particular, some of our tables don't display all that well but it is possible to scroll left and right to see the entries without too much trouble.

Search

Clicking search from the top menu bar does not appear very different at all but there is a different search engine working underneath which makes it much more likely that you will actually get the search results you want.

The index

While it is fairly straightforward to find chemicals such as copper sulphate and potassium hydroxide, by looking under 'c' and 'p' respectively for the appropriate entry, dyes, indicators, stains and various biological reagents have been much harder to find as they are bundled together.

To solve this problem, there is now an Index in the chemistry menu that takes you to a long list of all the chemicals we have information about under all the names we could think of and links to the appropriate page.

So now, if you are looking for recipes for Sachs solutions, you can just look under s and follow the link instead of having to remember that they are on the Biochemicals - Plant growth substances page, under B. The index also contains entries from the background information section so you can track down 'goggles' or 'Safe Shelf Lives' etc.

New entries in the Hazardous Chemicals Database

Over the last year, a lot of new chemicals have been added to our database. It seemed unhelpful to have no information about low hazard substances, leaving you to wonder that if something was not included in our list perhaps it has not hazardous.

So there are now pages with information about: aluminium compounds, ammonium compounds, magnesium compounds, potassium compounds, sodium compounds, phosphates, sulphates & sulphites, alcohols, esters, organic acids and, most recently, strontium compounds and molybdenum compounds. Most of these are pretty low hazard but at least you can now check to see if that really is the case.

Open access

Thanks to an enlightened decision by the board, all our educational resources are now available without logging on. That will probably not affect many of you but it will mean that if you put links in other documents you will get straight to the resource. The same applies to all bulletins more than a year old. Health and Safety information remains accessible to registered members only.

Educational resources

New material is constantly being uploaded to the site, though in a trickle when we get the time rather than a flood. The Biology, Chemistry and Physics pages are structured to reflect the new curriculum to make it easier for you to find activities to support the topics you are teaching.

The future

Before a flood of emails come in, we are still looking at the possibility of enabling printing more easily, especially of the Hazardous Chemicals Database. Oddly enough, it really isn't easy.

We will continue to upload educational and H&S resources. If there is anything else you would like to see, please let us know. No promises but if an enhancement is possible we're happy to give it a go. ◀