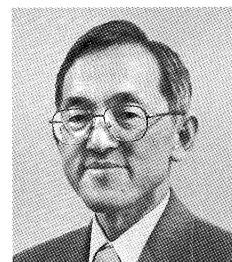


## Review Journals in the Web Age

Tsutomu Katsuki

Department of Chemistry, Kyushu University  
6-10-1 Hakozaki, Higashi-ku, Fukuoka 812-8581, Japan

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Quite some time ago, I had an idea in my mind. Since I could not find any similar ideas reported (beforehand) in “*Chemical Abstracts*”, I decided to begin researching my idea with a student. After we finished the research, however, I looked through “*Chemical Abstracts*” again, as a matter of caution, and found that an application of the same idea to a different reaction had been reported. Although this oversight was caused by my carelessness, I realized the importance of an effective search method. Today, an enormous amount of knowledge of chemical transformations has been accumulated, and discoveries of new reactions are rapidly increasing. Without a method for expeditious information searching, it is difficult for chemists to do research. Recent progress in retrieval software, such as SciFinder, has facilitated the search. However, computer-aided retrieval is not always reliable, and the oversight of papers may happen, mainly because of the discrepancy between terminologies used by author(s) and those chosen by readers, as well as the presence of synonymous words. For example, “asymmetric sulfoxidation” and “asymmetric oxidation of sulfides” are synonymous, and both terms are commonly accepted. Nonetheless, searching the web with these two terms will yield different search results.

Most review and account articles do not cover a topic completely, but well-written articles provide readers with the opportunity to be exposed to important papers related to the topic and, sometimes, ones not expected by the reader. The readers are able not only to overview the topic briefly, but also to obtain its historical background as well as a future perspective through the eyes of the reviewer(s). These are the advantages of review and account articles, which are difficult to obtain by web searching. This *Journal*, *Journal of Synthetic Organic Chemistry*, collects excellent accounts in various fields of organic chemistry authored by leading chemists, albeit mostly from our country. Through this *Journal*, and in particular the English version, chemists worldwide can share its advantages.

Today, chemists mostly search for new information on the web, and web-accessibility has become crucial for the circulation of journals. This *Journal* is one of the most widely read in our chemical society, and it has contributed to the past and current prosperity of organic chemistry. However, it does not necessarily win the international recognition it deserves, probably because its access is limited to printed material. Now is the time to consider publication of an electronic version of the English issue. This *Journal* would make a contribution to the future development of synthetic chemistry, commensurate with its excellent content.