

Historical Cantilevering

A Personal Perspective and Prognostication

Peter F. Rusch
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Thoughts

- I have always believed you were verifiably old when asked to talk at symposia with titles containing the words “*history of*”
- But I am reminded of the epitaph W. C. Fields proposed for himself:
"I'd rather be living in Philadelphia."

The Historical Part

- My personal views from my CV
 - BS, MS, PhD all in chemistry from 1965 -1971 and two post-docs
 - 1973 no jobs in chemistry
 - Due to my computer experience – went to CAS as “Sales Engineer”
 - DIALOG for 20 years developing the first online versions of all CAS products [other than CA Condensates (PMA on SDC), CBAC & parts of Registry (NLM)] **plus** Beilstein, Heilbron, others...

[Check them out!](#)

The Cantilever Part



The Cantilever Part

- Chemistry will remain the “central science”
- Fewer will recognize it as such
- There will be much less “pure chemistry”
- Chemistry will be the basis for many sciences that combine chemistry and...
- Biology
- Physics
- Electrical engineering
- more

Future of the History of Chemical Information

- **Prospective Retrospection**
 - Chemical information will be important but mostly as it is combined with other sciences
 - Chemical information specialists will be known for their unobvious knowledge of chemistry
 - As applied to new areas of industrial and academic application
 - Patent knowledge will be more important as too many patents are issued that should have been rejected

Leah's Question

- “...as we chart forward, what are the important principles for chemistry and chemical information in particular that we all in the information profession need to keep clear, front and center...?”

My answer(s)

- It's the:
 - Price/Performance
 - We live in an era of scarce financial resources that are controlled by the few, the un-knowledgable
 - Truth
 - “Scientists are the guardians of truth” – Josiah Williard Gibbs
 - It's the CHEMISTRY, stupid
 - An online search service used molecular formulae in place of chemical substance names in CASIA

My answers..... continued

- The old ideas still matter
 - Recall and Precision in searching
 - Customer-controlled search methods
 - “Recursive set usage”
 - Boolean and proximity search operators

My answers..... continued

- It's the:
 - Personal contact
 - Colleagues
 - Customers
 - Fight the “brain in a box” syndrome
 - Stimulate conversation
 - Lead the way
 - Fear the “Google search box”

The

End