

TIP OF THE MONTH FOR CHEMICAL CONSULTANTS RESOURCES FOR CONSULTANTS

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Leaving a corporate environment and striking out on your own as a consultant has many challenges. Among these are the high prices charged by some commercial sources, which are beyond the means of most independent consultants and small chemical businesses. No longer can you rely on an employer to absorb the costs of resources that you previously took for granted such as literature searching, library facilities, expensive software and IT support. And of course there is the pressing need to find clients. Fortunately there is a [compendium](#) of free and low cost resources for consultants. For example one can find listed the URL for a free source of detailed known and predicted property data for thousands of molecules, [Chemspider](#). Many of the listings are of use whether you are a new or seasoned consultant or still in the corporate arena. So far topics that have been addressed are:

- FINDING WORK
- NETWORKING
- SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION
- DATABASES, TRANSLATION SERVICES, SOFTWARE
- NEWS,
- BUSINESS
- LEGAL
- EDUCATION
- CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION
- BOOKS

This is a work in progress. All are encouraged to submit resources that they have found useful for inclusion in it or suggest areas that they would like to see covered by sending a note to [the author](#). One pressing area that needs addressing is finding an affordable way for individuals to access the electronic journal database.

Our next article will share some thoughts on an important aspect of getting clients: The value of listening.