



History

The history of Germany's "Chemistry Information Centre" (Fachinformationszentrum Chemie GmbH, short: FIZ CHEMIE Berlin), can be traced back long before its foundation in 1981 and is closely linked with that of a renowned predecessor, the "Chemische Zentralblatt" and thus with chemical information services in Germany and in the German capital.

Although Leopold Gmelin was able to publish all knowledge of chemistry in the three volumes of his "Handbuch der theoretischen Chemie" (Handbook of Theoretical Chemistry) which appeared in 1817 and 1819, rapid increases in chemical and pharmaceutical research accompanied by corresponding increases in scientific publication necessitated the introduction of the world's first abstracting service of any kind, the Chemische Zentralblatt, which was a direct predecessor organization of FIZ CHEMIE and which was founded as the "Pharmaceutisches Central-Blatt" in Leipzig in 1830.

The present day non-profit making information and documentation centre was founded on the 11th December 1981 under the auspices of the First Information and Documentation Programme of the Federal German Government. The centre is organised as a limited liability company with the share holders: the German Government (represented by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF), the Senate (State Government) of the City of Berlin (representing all the Federal German states), and the three learned societies

[The Society of German Chemists \(Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, short: GDCh\)](#)

[The Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology \(Gesellschaft für Chemische Technik und Biotechnologie e. V., short: DECHEMA\)](#)

[The Plastics Research Society \(Forschungsgesellschaft Kunststoffe e. V.\)](#).

Commencing operations on the 1st January 1982, the centre's charter states its aims as:

"FIZ CHEMIE has the task to produce or make available scientific and technical information services in the specialised field of chemistry and its related areas and to carry out all activities necessary to achieve this goal. In order to achieve this, the company can either assimilate or participate in other organisations or information services of an identical or similar nature."

Selected milestones in the development of FIZ CHEMIE Berlin

1830

Foundation of the "Pharmaceutisches Central-Blatt" in Leipzig

1856

Name change to "Chemische Zentralblatt" reflecting the growing increase of the importance of chemistry

1896

Publication taken over by the German Chemical Society (Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft)

**1901**

Editorial Office moved to Berlin

1944

Destruction of Editorial Offices during an air raid

1945

Interim cessation of publication

1947-1949

Publication of two separate "*Chemische Zentralblatt*" (CZ) journals in the Western and Eastern Occupation Zones of Germany

1950

Amalgamation into single abstracting service with Editorial Offices in both the American and Russian Sectors of Berlin

1969

Increasing financial and personnel difficulties force the East German authorities to leave the CZ publishing consortium; cessation of publication

1970

Foundation of the GDCh Division "Chemie-Information und -Dokumentation Berlin" (CIDB; Chemistry Information and Documentation Berlin) based around the former West Editorial Office of the CZ

Publication of the "*Chemischer Informationsdienst*" (ChemInform, Chemical Information Service) in collaboration with Bayer AG

Input agreement with the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS); co-operation with the Internationale Dokumentationsgesellschaft für Chemie GmbH (IDC; International Documentation Society for Chemistry, Ltd.) in Frankfurt/Main

1981

Foundation of FIZ CHEMIE Berlin

1983

Agreement with the American Chemical Society concerning the marketing of CAS ONLINE in Germany, Austria and Switzerland

1983/1984

Foundation of STN International (Scientific and Technical Network) with financial support of FIZ CHEMIE Berlin for the construction of the European STN node at FIZ Karlsruhe

**1985/1987**

Planning and realisation of the "German Input Centre" for CAS

1986

First publication of the house bulletin "*FIZ CHEMIE aktuell*"

1987

Commencement of Input for "GMELIN ONLINE"

1988

Commencement of work on the "ChemInform RX" reaction database

1990

Inauguration of an integrated production line for the preparation of the printed and electronic versions of "*ChemInform*" and for its reaction database "ChemInform RX"

1991

Foundation of the "Project FIZ CHEMIE" incorporating members of the former East German "Zentrale Informationsverarbeitung Chemie" (ZIC; Central Information Processing Department for Chemistry)

1992

Introduction of the inhouse reaction databases "ChemInform" and "Current Synthetic Methodologies" (CSM) as well as the online reaction database "ChemInform RX"

1993

Integration of former ZIC employees and some employees of the WIZ (Wissenschaftliches Informationszentrum der Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR, Scientific Information Centre of the East German Academy of Sciences) into FIZ CHEMIE Berlin

1995

ChemInform celebrates its 25th Anniversary

1996

Introduction of the databases "Solid-Phase Organic Reactions" (SPORE) and "ChemInform Electronic Journal" on CD-ROM

1997

Certification of the FIZ CHEMIE Berlin Quality Management System according to ISO 9001

Launch of FIZ CHEMIE's Internet host

**1998**

Launch of the first chemistry-specific Internet search engine "ChemGuide"

1999

Approval and start of the strategic BMBF project "Networked Chemistry Studies" (VS-C; Vernetztes Studium - Chemie)

Launch of the scientific publishers-specific Internet search engine "PublishersGuide - Science and Technology"

2000

Internet search engines "ChemGuide" and "PublishersGuide - Science and Technology" with more than 3.5 million URLs

2001

Launch of the Internet search engine "MedPharmGuide" for the life sciences

Agreement of a strategic alliance with the GDCh to network chemistry

Inauguration of the "FIZ CHEMIE Berlin Prize" of the "Chemistry-Information-Computer" Division of the GDCh; first awarded at the Annual Meeting of the GDCh in Wuerzburg

2002

BMBF study confirms FIZ CHEMIE Berlin's position at the forefront in the development of innovative services for scientific and technical information

2003

Integration of the "ChemInform" abstracting service in the Internet information service "Wiley InterScience" of the scientific publishers John Wiley & Sons Inc.

Launch of the Infotherm database of thermophysical data of pure substances and mixtures on the Internet

2004

Managing Directors of FIZ CHEMIE Berlin and FIZ Karlsruhe sign a Letter of Intent for strategic co-operation to establish a competence center for sci-tech information

FIZ CHEMIE Berlin, together with TDS Herrlich GmbH, launches the new CD-ROM database POLYRESIST containing information on the chemical resistance of plastics to various media

Advanced version of thermophysical properties database Infotherm on the web

Successful completion of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) strategic project "Networked Chemistry Studies" (VS-C; Vernetztes Studium - Chemie)



2005

The "WissenschaftsAtlas" is provided by the Berlin initiative Project Future, FIZ CHEMIE Berlin is official partner

Peter Schuhe, Managing Director of FIZ CHEMIE Berlin is leaving

"Networked Chemistry Studies" becomes CHEMGAROO

FIZ CHEMIE Berlin and Software AG are cooperating in providing high-quality chemical engineering data for corporate networks; The partners are developing an intranet-capable in-house version of the materials databank Infotherm