

## **Conversion of a Classic Print Source of Reference Data to Electronic Form: The CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics**

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The CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics has been a major source of physical science data for almost a century. With its annual editions, it became a standard book for purchase by students and researchers in science and engineering, and it is found in almost every technical library. The book has grown from 116 small size pages in its first edition in 1913 to over 2800 large pages in the current 90th Edition. Planning began about 10 years ago to convert the book to an electronic format. The diversity of material in the Handbook – over 350 separate tables on topics ranging from astrophysics to biochemistry – and the variety of formats in these tables presented a number of challenges, which will be described. The resulting Internet and CD-ROM versions offer the major tables of numerical property data in an interactive format that can be searched in several different ways. This makes it possible to retrieve a desired property of a specified substance or material far more quickly than is possible in print media. In addition, the full content of the print version, together with many older tables that were removed because of page limitations, can be displayed in PDF format. The electronic version is still evolving, and further search and display capabilities are being planned.