

Assessment of the impact of the EPSRC's decision to restrict CDS to the provision of only Crystallography and the Detherm databases.

1. The CDS has over 2000 active users annually, of which more than 1200 individuals from 75 institutes use services that are to be stopped. This number is increasing at 10 per cent per year.
2. Alternative arrangements for the bulk of these users would cost about £ 1/2 million a year by the cheapest options^{1,2}. This would still miss out a number of important components³ and disenfranchise a proportion of the users completely (we estimate this number to be several hundred).
3. Many research projects are already in progress or are about to start with the implicit assumption that CDS is available to support them. The transition to alternate arrangements will adversely affect all of them, obviously more so in the cases where no alternate access is available.

¹ Access to the organic chemistry databases via MDL's DiscoveryGate service through the most recent JISC brokered deal for the 42 institutes which currently make significant use of them would cost £340,000 annually.

² Access to spectroscopic data via ACD/Labs I-Lab system for the 42 institutes which make significant use of them is estimated to cost around £150,000 annually.

³ There would be no access to the Accelrys databases (Protecting Groups, Solid Phase Synthesis and Biocatalysis) or to the Chiral Separations database.