data and references, which have been studied in the gas phase by electron diffraction or microwave spectroscopy.

On the other hand, not everything came up roses. Too many of the figures have been reduced to a point where it is impossible to discern the numbers in them without the aid of a magnifying glass. Some of the figures are defectively reproduced, with incomplete atoms and cracked bonds, as if they had been etched on pieces of bread. Some of the molecular drawings which occur opposite the empirical formulas at the start of each report are crudely hand-drawn. Hermann–Mauguin symbols are used exclusively for space groups, but Schönflies for molecular symmetries.

Gone, alas, are the days of critical abstracting of the earlier years of Structure Reports when the abstractors inserted their own pithy comments in their earlier volumes. The method used for producing this volume did not allow for subscripts in the formulas nor for bold face for volume numbers, but this should cause no difficulties.

The Sixty Year Index of metals and inorganic compounds, with supplement, is also well organized, but in a somewhat different way. First comes a metals classified index (48 pp.), by formula, of elements, binary alloys, ternary alloys, hydrides, borides, carbides, ... tellurides; (2) metals structure-type index (59 pp.), with the entries listed according to the structure-type code of Pearson (this is fully explained in the introduction); (3) inorganic index (103 pp.) in which the entries, by name, are listed under the classifications: elements, hydrides, carbides, nitrates, ... silicate minerals. Within each classification the order is that of the Periodic Table; and (4) mineral index (28 pp.), in which minerals in the metals and inorganic sections are listed together in alphabetical order.

In both of the preceding volumes, if you know the name or formula of a compound in which you are interested it is easy to find out if that particular compound has been referenced in Strukturbericht or Structure Reports in 1913–1973.

The cumulative index for Strukturbericht, Vols 1–7, is based on English translation from the original German indexes. It consists of a subject index (24 pp.), a formula index (36 pp. of metals and inorganic compounds, 8 pp. of organic compounds), and an author index (27 pp.). This volume will be useful for locating references to the early literature without having to leaf through the separate Strukturbericht indexes.

Although the combined cost of all of these volumes is a whopping Dfl 800 ($400 or £200 at today's exchange rates) librarians and crystallographers (who may purchase them at 50% of the list prices) will have to bite the bit and add them to their collections. They are essential, the few reservations expressed above notwithstanding.

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