

SCIENCE

EDITORIAL

Published by the **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**, *Science* serves its readers as a forum for the presentation and discussion of important issues related to the advancement of science, including the presentation of minority or conflicting points of view, rather than by publishing only material on which a consensus has been reached. Accordingly, all articles published in *Science*—including editorials, news and comment, and book reviews—are signed and reflect the individual views of the authors and not official points of view adopted by the AAAS or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.



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New, Improved, and All There

By every available indicator, the *Guide to Scientific Products, Instruments and Services* published by *Science* each year is what's known in the publishing business as a "keeper."

It is kept on the bookshelves of many a reader's office as a handy and trusted reference book—the "yellow pages" of the research community. Months in advance of the *Guide* issue, the Membership office receives calls asking where is it...when will it arrive...can I get it early...can you send extra copies. So it isn't really surprising that we started receiving inquiries and orders in March of last year for the 1992 *Guide*, published with the 20 November issue of *Science*.

The main reason for publishing the *Guide* in the fall of 1992, instead of the spring, was to allow us to improve the product. This included creating a current database of manufacturers' addresses and products. The 1992 *Guide* incorporated many new features, including an update of the product listings and a restructuring to make the *Guide* more user-friendly. The '92 *Guide* was, indeed, simpler to use and less cluttered. Unfortunately, however, the listing information was not complete due to problems with our new database.

More important than explaining the glitches in detail is noting the larger principle underlying this revision. With this reissue of the *Guide*, we are following through on the tacit promise behind every issue of *Science*: The editors intend each week to bring readers the authoritative journal of scientific advances in research and technology.

On the rare occasion when we do slip up, the goal is to fix it fast and get the right information out, whatever the cost. Reprinting an issue is an extraordinary step in the world of publishing. This reissue is a demonstration of the commitment of *Science*—and its parent organization AAAS—not only to accuracy and reliability, but to thoroughness as well. These revised listings conform to our standards and we apologize for our errors in the November *Guide*.

The 20 November *Guide* was genuinely a "new and improved" reference tool for researchers. The present revision is the "complete, new and improved" version. What remains is for you to browse this *Guide* for the research tools you need today, and to put it on your shelf for future reference. We are confident that the revised *Guide* will meet your needs and our standards for accuracy.

—Michael Spinella
Director, Membership and Circulation