

## The NIST Chemistry WebBook Goes Multilingual

P. Linstrom and W. G. Mallard (838)

The role of international trade is growing more important in the US economy each year. Although most US goods have a natural market in the Western Hemisphere, their export continues to be hampered by numerous factors. One such factor has been our limited ability to communicate with the non-English-speaking world. To address this challenge, NIST is actively working to make more of its information available in Spanish. The WebBook translations are part of this effort.

**The NIST Chemistry WebBook is a widely used tool for both teaching and practicing chemistry worldwide, therefore NIST has made the WebBook available in more languages.**

The need for as much information to be available in as many European languages as possible has been a driving force for numerous EU projects. Therefore, we have been cooperating with the European Commission to make the WebBook available in more languages. Since the NIST WebBook is extensively used in Europe this made it a prime candidate for the EU effort. The NIST role has been to provide the basic text in marked-up format ready for translation. The cost of the translation has been born by the EU. The first results of this are a set of web pages allowing the basic search to be done in French, Spanish, Czech, and Portuguese.

The W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) set standards for multilingual sites and they are supported by most of the new browsers. Using these standards, a Spanish-speaking user of the WebBook would be greeted in Spanish, and a user from Brazil would be greeted in Portuguese. Examples are shown to the right. In the future other languages will be added as the EU provides additional translation.

### Libro del Web de Química del NIST

*Base de Datos de Referencia Estándar del NIST Número 69  
Publicada en Noviembre, 2004*

### NIST Livro de Química na Web

*Base de dados de Referência padrão do NIST número 69  
Publicada em Novembro, 2004*

While it is impractical to translate every section of the WebBook, there are major portions of the opening screens that allow the users in other languages to more readily use the complex search features of the WebBook. We sought the expertise of Rui Pinto from Departamento de Química, Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal who came to NIST as a Guest Researcher to assist in this project, primarily to complete the Portuguese, Spanish, and French translations.

Because the WebBook has been conforming in its design to the most rigorous standards of W3C, the use of multiple languages with full support of the language-specific character sets was relatively straightforward to implement.

**The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) uses its best efforts to deliver a high quality copy of the Database and to verify that the data contained therein have been selected on the basis of sound scientific judgment. However, NIST makes no warranties to that effect, and NIST shall not be liable for any damage that may result from errors or omissions in the Database.**

This meant that the preceding English version of the “disclaimer” could become what follows for the Czech version.

**Národní Institut pro standardy a technologii (NIST) vynakládá maximální úsilí, aby zpřístupnil vysoce kvalitní databázi a mohl potvrdit, že zde obsažená data byla vybrána na základě řádného vědeckého posouzení. Přesto však NIST v této věci nedává žádné záruky a NIST nebude zodpovědný za jakoukoliv škodu, která může vzniknout v důsledku chyb nebo opominutí v Databázi.**

Future changes will only require that the text be made available in standard formatted files.