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† Compiled by the staff of the Houston Journal of International Law with the assistance of Margaret A. Aycock, Foreign and International Law Librarian, University of Houston Law Library.
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I. INTRODUCTION

"Biotechnology" is defined as "any technique that is used to make or modify the products of living organisms in order to improve plants or animals or to develop useful microorganisms." Biotechnology has been practiced for centuries using yeast and bacteria in the making of certain foods, such as wine, bread, and cheese. Today, biotechnology includes unique or specifically useful organisms developed through cell and tissue culture, cell fusion, molecular biology, and recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) technology.

Biotechnology is important for many areas of scientific research including genetics, microbiology, immunology, agriculture, plant science, food science, medicine, and environmental sciences. Recent medical applications include the production of human interferon to fight viruses, human growth hormones, human insulin, and the development of a vaccine against hepatitis B. Biotechnology has also created a new bacteria that can digest oil slicks.

Since the 1980 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Diamond v. Chakrabarty*, holding that a live human-made microorganism (the oil digesting bacteria) was patentable matter, biotechnology has been of increasing commercial interest for private industry in the United States. Similar developments have taken place abroad.

Biotechnology's boundaries are vague. It encompasses many techniques and is important for many scientific fields. Consequently, the relevant literature is vast. Over the past decade many public policy and legal issues concerning biotechnology have arisen. New, unforeseen questions will continue to develop. It is hoped that this selective and non-technical bibliography will be of use to lawyers, policy makers, scientists, engineers, and others who find themselves researching foreign and international biotechnology issues.

II. REFERENCE BOOKS

A. General


B. Bibliographies and Indexes

American Association of Law Libraries. 1960. Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals. Berkeley: University of California Press. Relevant headings include: Genetics; Patents; Industrial & Intellectual Property; Inventions; Employees; Licensing; Technology & Technology Transfer.


C. Directories and Guides


D: Abstracts and Digests


**E. Handbooks**


F. Dictionaries


G. Computer-Assisted Research

1. Academic Discussion Lists

**BIO-JRNL.**

Bitnet: LISTSERV@IRLEARN  
Internet: LISTSERV@IRLEARN.UCD.IE  
Postings of biological journal tables of contents.

**BIO-NAUT.**

Bitnet/Earn: LISTSERV@IRLEARN  
Internet: LISTSERV@IRLEARN.UCD.IE  
Directory of biologists online.

**BIOMED-L.**

Bitnet: LISTSERV@NDSUVM1  
Internet: LISTSERV@VM1.NODAK.EDU  
Biomedical ethics.

**BIONEWS.**

Bitnet/Earn: LISTSERV@IRLEARN  
Internet: LISTSERV@IRLEARN.UCD.IE  

**BIOTECH.**

Bitnet: BIOSERV@UMDC  
Internet: BIOSERV@UMDC.UMD.EDU  
Biotechnology e-Conference.

**MEDLIB-L.**

Bitnet: LISTSERV@UBVM

4. For an overview of networking conventions and a detailed summary of biological resources available on-line, see Una R. Smith; *A Biologist’s Guide to Internet Resources*, updated monthly and available via Usenet, gopher, anonymous FTP, and e-mail. In Usenet, look in “sci.bio” or “sci.answers.” In gophers with biology topics, look under “Ecology and Evolution.” Anonymous FTP to “sunsite.unc.edu” where the guide is stored as “pub/academic/biology/ecology+evolution/FAQ.” Send e-mail to “mail-server@rtfm.mit.edu” with “send usenet/news.answers/biology/guide/.”
Internet: LISTSERV@UBVM.CC.BUFFALO.EDU
Official e-Conference for the Medical School Libraries Section of the Medical Library Association.

Patent Titles Mailing List.
Internet: PATENTS-REQUEST@WORLD.STD.COM
This is a free mailing service of all of the patents listed in the most recent issue of the USPTO Patent Gazette. For each patent, the patent title and number are listed. Specify MECHANICAL, CHEMICAL, and/or ELECTRONIC, and the words ASCII or UNZIP. Future plans are to include brief descriptions of British and Japanese patents.

2. Databases

AGRICOLA. 1970-. Beltsville, Md.: National Agricultural Library. AGRICultural OnLine Access is the database of the National Agricultural Library covering worldwide journal literature and monographs on agriculture and related subjects. Available through DIALOG Files 10 and 110 and Westlaw Databases AGRICOLA and AGRICOLA-A.

Biobusiness. 1985-. Philadelphia: BIOSIS. Covers economic aspects of biotechnology from more than 500 journal, books, and other publications. Available through DIALOG File 285 and Westlaw Database BIOBUS.

BIOSIS Previews. 1969-. Philadelphia, Pa.: BIOSIS. Citations from Biological Abstracts, Biological Abstracts/RRM and Bioresearch Index on all aspects of biosciences and medical research. Indexes over 9000 journals and monographs. Available through DIALOG Files 5 and 55 and Westlaw Databases BIOSIS and BIOSIS85 (not carried by law school subscribers).


Conference Papers Index. 1973-. Bethesda, Md.: Cambridge Scientific Abstracts. Indexes more than 100,000 scientific and technical papers presented at over 1000 major meetings each year. Includes availability and order information of preprints, reprints, and proceedings. Available through DIALOG File 77 and Westlaw Database CPI.


DIOGENES. 1976-. Rockville, Md.: FOI Services, Inc. Contains information relating to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Available through DIALOG File 158 and Westlaw Database DIOGENES.

F-D-C Reports. 1987-. Chevy Chase, Md.: F-D-C Reports, Inc. Provides up-to-date information about the worldwide healthcare industry including companies, products, markets, regulatory and legislative activities. Available through DIALOG File 187 and Westlaw Database FCD-RPTS.
Federal research in progress. Current. Springfield, Va.: National Technical Information Service. Provides information about ongoing federally funded research projects in the fields of physical science, engineering, and life sciences. Available through DIALOG Files 265 and 266 and Westlaw Databases FEDRIP and FEDRIP-AB. The abridged version is available worldwide. The unabridged version is available only in the United States, but is not carried by law school subscribers.

Food Science and Technology Abstracts. 1969-. Berkshire, U.K.: International Food Information Service. Examines over 1200 journals from over 50 countries as well as patents, books, conference proceedings and legislation. Available through DIALOG File 51 and Westlaw Database FSTA.

Foods Adlibra. 1974-. Minneapolis: General Mills, Foods Adlibra Publications. Contains information on food industry developments and major research and technological advances. Available through DIALOG File 79 and Westlaw Database FDSADLIBRA.


Health Periodicals Database. 1988-. Foster City, Calif.: Information Access Company. Indexes and provides full text coverage of biotechnology journals as well as a broad range of health subjects. Available through DIALOG File 149 and Westlaw Database HPD (not carried by some law school subscribers).

Infomat International Business. 1984-. Cleveland, Ohio: Predicasts. Provides abstracts of business news articles from over 600 business newspapers and journals from more than 20 countries selected to meet the needs of the biotechnology industry and food and beverage industry, among others. Available through DIALOG File 583 and Westlaw Database IIB.

of Japan. Available through DIALOG File 347 and Westlaw Database JAPIO (not carried by law school subscribers).

**Medline.** 1966-. Bethesda, Md.: U.S. National Library of Medicine. Corresponds to three printed indexes: Index Medicus, Index to Dental Literature, and International Nursing Index. Covers over 3,700 journals from the United States and 70 other countries. Available through DIALOG Files 152–55; LEXIS/NEO-MEDLINE Library; and Westlaw Databases MEDLINE, MEDLINE 66, MEDLINE 75, and MEDLINE 85.


**SCAD (Système Communautaire Accéss à la Documentation).** Current. Brussels: Commission of the European Communities. Contains legislation and preparatory acts from the Official Journal, COM final documents, EP working papers, ECOSOC opinions, and bibliographic records of publications distributed or published by the EC Office for Official Publications. Also includes citations and abstracts from 1500 periodicals in 12 languages from all over the world. Available from the Commission of the European Communities and Ellis Publications, Maastricht, The Netherlands.


**World Translations Index.** 1979-. Delft: The International Translation Centre. Nancy, France: CNRS/INIST. Machine-readable version of the print publication. More than 65% of the citations are to publications translated from foreign languages into English. Covers literature relating to all fields of science
and technology. Available through DIALOG file 295 and Westlaw Database WTI.

III. SERIALS

A. Proceedings of Conferences


Academic Publishers; Cologne: Deutscher Wirtschaftsdienst. 337 pages.


B. Periodicals


IV. BOOKS AND ARTICLES

A. History and Trends


B. Policy


C. Ethical and Medical Aspects


D. Risks and Safety Measures


E. Commercial and Economic Aspects

1. General


2. Agriculture


Curry, Judith R. 1987. The Patentability of Genetically Engineered Plants and Animals in the U.S. and Europe: A Compara-


3. Business and Industry


**F. Legal Aspects**

1. General


2. Intellectual property

a. General


b. Licensing


c. Patents


Greene, Anne Marie. Patents Throughout the World. 2d ed. New York: Trade Activities, Inc. 1978—.


d. Patent Litigation


3. Property Rights


**4. Regulations**


U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Science and Technology. Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight; Subcommittee


G. Selected Regions and Individual Countries

1. Africa


2. Asia

a. China


b. Japan


c. Miscellaneous Countries


3. Baltic States and the former Soviet Union


4. Canada


5. Europe


6. Latin America
