

# CHIMIA REPORT/COMPANY NEWS

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## Chemistry at Thieme – 115 years and counting

**From “Houben-Weyl” to state-of-the-art digital solutions: Thieme has been supporting chemists and academic students in research and industry worldwide for more than 115 years. Many things have changed, but the focus on highly evaluated, custom-fit specialist information in synthetic organic and general chemistry and the close cooperation with partners and societies in the chemical sciences has remained.**

In 1909, Theodor Weyl published the reference series “Methods of Organic Chemistry” with Georg Thieme Verlag and he had a clear vision and quality specification: The publication of selected, tested and evaluated methods of synthesis. The series was continued in 1913 by Heinrich J. Houben and has been known in professional circles as “Houben-Weyl” ever since.

### Pioneering in (digital) specialist information

As research and scientific progress in organic chemistry accelerated and evolved, Thieme continuously developed “Houben-Weyl” over the years, which became one of the standard works in the field of organic synthesis. In 2000, the first printed volumes of “*Science of Synthesis, Houben-Weyl Methods of Molecular Transformations*” were published. The 48-thematic volumes contained the accumulated knowledge of many renowned authors from research and industry.

Chemistry has often been at the forefront of digitization at Thieme. In 2002, Thieme presented its chemical reference work “*Science of Synthesis*” in a digitized form for the first time. The volumes, which used to fill entire bookshelves in libraries, were condensed and made available electronically. The mammoth work contained thousands of interlinked entries and compounds from organic chemistry. Over 2,000 authors have contributed to the series to-date.

“Our excellent network of experts in synthetic chemistry has always been crucial to what we aim for: To provide the key information at the right time and in the right place with all our digital and analog offerings”, says Dr Kathleen Too, Senior Vice President, Chemistry at Thieme.

### Online reference in synthetic and organic chemistry

Today, Thieme’s *Science of Synthesis* provides the international chemistry community with online access to expert reviews of some of the most dynamic areas of organic chemistry. The reference work is continuously updated with high-quality content using clearly defined criteria for method selection as well as established editorial processes for its production.

To offer students, graduates, and researchers in industry and academia from all over the world the possibility to learn more about and discuss recent research and findings in organic chemistry, Thieme has launched a series of online mini-symposia. In the *WebCheminars*, renowned experts in their field present and discuss their work.

**Thieme WebCheminars**  
presenting special topics  
on organic synthesis  
featuring expert chemists

Check out dates & topics!

Thieme

### Focus on open access journals

Thieme has launched several new international, peer-reviewed, open access journals in recent years. Since 2017, *SynOpen* has complemented *Synthesis* (first published 1969) and *Synlett* (first published 1989) with a focus on chemical synthesis. *Organic Materials* provides cutting-edge discoveries in the field of Materials Chemistry since 2019. Thieme plans to launch a new series of journals, called “NOW” aimed at addressing the world’s most pressing issues. *Sustainability & Circularity NOW*, the first journal to be launched in this series, will aim to shape an ambitious interdisciplinary agenda to resolve the global environmental crises that we face. Submissions will be open in October 2023 with its first volume in 2024.

“By using the select crowd review technology, we aim to keep the high quality of peer review whilst speeding up the publishing process. Our authors will see real value in publishing their work rapidly and in an innovative way. We would like to invite all Swiss researchers to consider our journals for submission,” emphasizes Dr Kathleen Too.

“At Thieme, we have over 115 years of experience in publishing relevant specialist chemistry content, which we will continue to develop in the years to come”, says Dr Fiona Shortt de Hernandez, Senior Director Product Management and Strategic Partnerships at Thieme. “For this, we will specifically focus on strengthening close partnerships such as with the Swiss Chemical Society”.

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