

## Research Laboratory Notebooks



## Purpose of a Lab Notebook

Documenting

Record-keeping

Activity

Legal - Patents

Safety

Labelling

“Mystery Samples”



## Lab Notebook – The actual book

“Permanent and primary” record

Firm binding

Numbered pages

Using a notebook

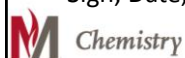
Use pen – Cross out errors

Never rip out pages

No transcribing – “on another sheet”

Secure location – In lab

Sign, Date, Witness



Nalgene 6301-2000 Polyethylene Laboratory Notebook with Scaled Lines, Burgundy PE Cover, 96 Pages, 11" Length x 8-1/2" Width

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National® Brand Laboratory Research Notebook, 9 1/4" x 11", Quadrille Ruled, 100 Sheets, Brown  
 Item # 23790

Designed for laboratory note-taking and record keeping

- First sheet is bound and duplicate is perforated.
- Numbered tabs are quad ruled with 4 by 4 squares per inch on the front and plain on the back.

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esselle Laboratory Record Notebook

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It's 2012...

Electronic Notebooks

Proprietary software

Documentable – requires backup

Live science

Real time reporting

Open access

Impact on publication?

Impact on patents?

Getting scooped?



### Formatting Lab Notebook Entries

By date – diary format

- Easier to see work flow

- Work on a single experiment can jump around – Hard to follow?

- Legal advantages

By experiment

- Easier to follow/reproduce experiments

- “What did you do today?” harder



### Spectra and other data

Attach to a page in the lab notebook

- Staple or tape, make a note

Maintain an appendix/external file

- Clear label/cross-reference system

- Describe/analyze in the lab notebook



### Who “owns” a Lab Notebook

Employer

- Often very strict rules

Principal Investigator

- Project continuation

- Future publications/patents



### Lab Notebooks

Examples

- <http://web.mit.edu/me-ugoffice/communication/labnotebooks.pdf>

Best practice

- Ask your employer/mentor

