

# A SADISTIC TIC TICKLER

ROGER E. RONDEAU  
Dayton, Ohio

According to Alvin Toffler, author of *Future Shock* and *The Third Wave*, human history can be viewed in terms of waves. First there was the Agrarian Age, then came the Industrial Revolution, and now we are riding the crest of the third wave--the Information Age. Today, practically every form of information can be digitized and computerized for storage and retrieval. One of the most important repositories of stored knowledge is the technical information center--it seems there's a TIC for every conceivable subject.

It is time to introduce Word Ways readers to a number of previously-unsuspected dictionary TICs:

copTIC: a technical information center for the police  
 bioTIC: a repository of biographical highlights  
 antibioTIC: a depository of dirt and lowlights  
 semiTIC: a database of the trucking industry  
 antisemiTIC: a database of safety statistics for big rigs  
 geneTIC: where to go for everything you wanted to know about sex  
 embryoTIC: even pre-life personal data bits are collected and stored  
 enigmaTIC: the first place to look to uncover unsolved mysteries  
 aquaTIC: a reservoir of information about water  
 aromaTIC: an accumulation of olfactory information  
 chromaTIC: a full-spectrum database of every color of the rainbow  
 monochromaTIC: a database for the color-blind  
 dramaTIC: a good reference for information on acting  
 melodramaTIC: an analogous reference for information on overacting  
 mimeTIC: really a dumb database  
 poeTIC: forevermore loaded with information about a certain poet  
 diplomaTIC: a listing of individual educational credentials  
 phoneTIC: Ma Bell's data bank  
 traumaTIC: a medical database for emergency rooms  
 dogmaTIC: information for veterinarians treating pregnant dogs  
 geodeTIC: the place to look for information on crystal-lined rocks  
 stigmaTIC: a compendium of nasty nicknames  
 romanTIC: a capital database for Italy

In addition to TICs there are IACs (information and analysis centers); one can play this game with them as well. CardIAC is where you'd expect to find information and analysis of card games; manIACs are studied by anthropologists; and if you're interested in satanic stuff you can go straight to .... the demonIAC.