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-unexpected dictionary TICs:

copTIC: a technical information center for the police
bioTIC: a repository of biographical highlights
antibioTIC: a repository of dirt and lowlights
semiTIC: a database of the trucking industry
antisemiTIC: a database of safety statistics for big rigs
geneticTIC: 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
aquaticTIC: a reservoir of information about water
aromaTIC: an accumulation of olfactory information
chromaticTIC: a full-spectrum database of every color of the rainbow
monochromaticTIC: 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
poeticTIC: forevermore loaded with information about a certain poet
diplomaticTIC: a listing of individual educational credentials
phoneTIC: Ma Bell's data bank
traumaticTIC: a medical database for emergency rooms
dogmaticTIC: information for veterinarians treating pregnant dogs
geodeTIC: the place to look for information on crystal-lined rocks
stigmaticTIC: 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.