Patent Searching Resources

U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO) [www.uspto.gov and 800-PTO-9199]

The primary source for U.S. patent information! If you call the 800 number anytime ' 24/7' you may access detailed voice messages regarding the USPTO, patents and trademarks. During the USPTO Contact Center business hours – 8:30 am to 8:00 pm ET – you may talk with a customer service representative; ask to be connected to experts in the Inventors Assistance Center (IAC) from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm; or the Trademark Assistance Center from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, all Eastern Time.

Important USPTO web pages

USPTO Patents Main Page   [http://www.uspto.gov/patents/index.jsp]

General Information Concerning Patents
   [http://www.uspto.gov/patents/resources/general_info_concerning_patents.jsp]

> The best introduction to patent information available on the Web, and free! Originally an 80+ pages booklet published and distributed by the USPTO. Note the underscores between 'general,' 'info,' 'concerning,' and 'patents,' as in 'general_info_concerning_patents.jsp'.

Patent Full-Text and Full-Page Image Databases [http://patft.uspto.gov/]

> The starting page for searching both U.S. granted patents and published patent applications. Note the links for **Searching by Class**, which brings us to the U.S. Patent Classification web page; and **Attorneys and Agents**, which brings you to a searchable index of all Registered Attorneys and Agents that may be searched by city and state for patent specialists.

Patent & Trademark Resource Centers (PTRCs) [Directory by state with hotlinks at www.uspto.gov/go/ptdl/ptdlib_1.html] (Note the *underscore*, as in 'ptdlib_1')

> The 80+ PTRCs nationwide are often the most knowledgeable, helpful and publicly available local sources of information about patents, trademarks and copyright. PTRC representatives are local experts on intellectual property; attend extensive annual training programs at the USPTO; and receive materials for distribution to inventors and researchers at each PTRC location.

Internet Video Resources

'Basic Patent Training for the Independent Inventor and Small Businesses' (USPTO)
   http://www.uspto.gov/video/cbt/basicpatenttraining/index.htm

'Patent Searching' video (Auburn PTRC)
   http://diglib.auburn.edu/tutorials/uspto6.htm .

University of Central Florida Patent Tutorial (Orlando PTRC)
   http://library.ucf.edu/govdocs/PatentsTrademarks/default.asp

> (Click on 'Patents' and then on 'UCF Patent Tutorial')

Other Internet Resources

University of Utah Marriott Library Patent and Trademarks Web Page (Salt Lake City PTRC)
   http://campusguides.lib.utah.edu/patents

> My CampusGuide for patents and trademarks. The last tab in the guide contains many of my Powerpoint® presentations on patent and trademark searching.

Other Internet Resources, cont.

Esp@cenet Patent Database
   www.worldwide.espacenet.com   (Try the 'Quick Search' link on the left side of the screen.)

   70+ million U.S., European Patent Office (EPO), and Japanese patents, most with English abstracts!
   Multiple patents from many countries grouped into 'patent families,' that is, all international patents
   applied for and issued for a single, specific invention.

World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) – an agency of the United Nations.
   www.wipo.org   Patent Cooperation Treaty and PCT patents, administered by WIPO.
   http://ipdl.wipo.int/   Search WIPO's Intellectual Property Digital Library

Inventor's Handbook, Lemelson-MIT Program.
   http://web.mit.edu/invent/h-main.html

   Jerome Lemelson, one of our most prolific modern inventors, funded this entrepreneurs' program at MIT.

pat2pdf.org   [www.pat2pdf.org]

   Another easy and quick way to get complete 'full-text and images' patent copies on the Internet for free
   when you have a U.S. patent or published U.S. patent applications number. PDF files may be
   downloaded, stored or reviewed on your computer or USB (flash) drive; emailed to colleagues as a
   message attachment; and will print out in excellent resolution.

Free Patents Online   [www.freepatentsonline.com]

   My current favorite non-USPTO patent website! A useful collection of tools to use for viewing and
   comparing patents by creating spreadsheet files from USPTO patent searches using the 'Advanced' search
   commands. A free subscription gives the researcher the ability to save complex searches, save search
   results into portfolios, and batch export search results to Excel or any other spreadsheet program.

Selected Resources in Print [Available in the Marriott Library, Knowledge Commons Reference Collection, 2nd
Floor]

Successful patents and patenting for engineers and scientists / edited by Michael A. Lechter… [et al.]. New York:
IEEE Press, c1995. [KF3114.8.E54 S83 1995]

What every engineer should know about patents / William G. Konold … [et al.]. 2nd ed. New York: M. Dekker,
c1989. [KF3114.8.E54 W48 1989]

Patent strategy for researchers and research managers / H. Jackson Knight.
2nd ed. New York: J. Wiley & Sons, 2004, c2001. [KF3120.Z9 K58 2004]

The inventor's notebook: a "Patent it yourself" companion / by Fred Grissom & David Pressman. 4th ed.
Berkeley, CA: Nolo, 2005. [KF3120.Z9 G75 2005]

Patent It Yourself: Your Step-by-step Guide to Filing at the U.S. Patent Office / by David Pressman. 14th ed.
Berkeley, CA: Nolo, 2009. [KF 3114.85 P74 2009]

Patent Pending in 24 Hours / by Richard Stim and David Pressman. 5th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo, 2010. [KF3120
Z9S75 2010]

Patent Searching Made Easy / David Hitchcock. 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo, 2013. [T210 H58 2013]

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