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Intellectual Property, Secrets, and Declassified Information. Mastering United States Government Information: Sources and Services, Christopher C. Brown, Libraries Unlimited, 2020.

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"Intellectual Property, Secrets, and Declassified Information." *Mastering United States Government Information: Sources and Services*, Christopher C. Brown, Libraries Unlimited, 2020.

"Intellectual Property, Secrets, and Declassified Information" is chapter 15 of *Mastering United States Government Information, Sources and Services* by Christopher C. Brown.

Published in 2020 by Libraries Unlimited, the 17-chapter text covers government information by focusing on the government entities or agencies that publish the information. It is organized by resources including Federal Information Dissemination, Legislative Branch Information Sources, Legislative History Research, Documents of the Presidency, Executive Branch Information Sources, Statistical Sources, Census Basics and Background, Geographic Information Systems, and State and Local Government Information. The book is modeled after a 3 credit course on government information that the author teaches at the University of Denver.

The chapter on intellectual property is on pages 341 to 361. It includes an introduction section followed by discussions about patents, trademarks, and copyright. It also contains sections about Secrets, Declassified, Unpublished Government Information, the Freedom of Information Act, and the Privacy Act.

The section on patents describes what they are and mentions that they are listed as a type of IP in the US Constitution, along with copyright. Citing Article 1 Section 8, Congress shall have power "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." The author states that "there is tension between protecting the rights of innovators with the wide wider public interest" (p. 342). He describes patents as a combination of skill sets, of those of an engineer and an attorney. Aside from their original purpose, they are useful for the history of inventions, genealogy, and technical drawings. They can be difficult to work with because of their vague titles, the classification systems, and the difficulty in identifying older patents.

The chapter outlines the three types of patents: utility, design and plant. The anatomy of a patent follows with a description of each component, Brown describes the title of the patent as ambiguous although it is relevant to one or more of the claims. The prior art or references "are included to demonstrate the validity" (p. 345) of the invention. Brown describes the claims as the most important section of patents with a description of what makes the patent unique.

The classification system section is noteworthy as Brown stresses that classification is necessary because of the fallibility of keyword searching, and that terminology changes over time. He then cites, "Patent Classification Through the Ages,"¹ describing patent classification and outlining its timeline. Examples are given for the CPC, which he notes is the replacement of the U.S. Patent Classification system. Brown suggests the following patent search strategy:

- 1) Brainstorm terms that describe what you want to search for.
- 2) Go to the USPTO main page and type the CPC scheme to get to the CPC schedule.
- 3) Scan for the classification definition that matches to what you are looking for.
- 4) Search PatFT database by CPC using 'Current CPC Classification'
 - a. Select the 1790 database
 - b. Review front page information for all patents and other elements for more detail.
- 5) Search AppFT by CPC.
- 6) Broaden the search by searching for older U.S. patents using the USPC classification. Foreign patents may be searched using Espacenet (European Patent Office). Also mentioned is the Subject-Matter Index of Patents for

¹<https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Timeline.pdf>

Intentions Issued by the United States Patent Office from 1792 to 1873.

Following is an overview of Google Patents and how it may be used to find a list of patents, especially by assignee. He uses his grandfather as an example, using Google Patents to identify patent numbers and dates, then checks for additional information in the *Official Gazette*, which exists in its entirety in HathiTrust. The *Annual Report of the Commissioner of Patents* can also be searched for a specific year and images can be retrieved from USPTO website by patent number.

Brown further states that free patent search tools including Pat2PDF can be used to retrieve full images of a patent. Others listed include Patent Retriever, Patent Fetcher, WIPO's Patentscope, and Free Patents Online.

Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRC) are located throughout the country "to provide specialized assistance with USPTO databases and resources" (p. 350). They can help with historical and foreign patent research, demonstrate how to search USPTO databases, etc. Brown tells readers to make use of the map on the USPTO website to locate PTRCs in libraries nationwide.

In the trademark section, he reviews TESS, the Trademark Electronic Search System at USPTO, which also uses a classification system. For design marks, the Design Search Code Manual must be used; Brown uses diagrams to illustrate a search. For older trademarks he advises using the *Trademark Official Gazette 1872-1971*, searchable from 2004 to the present, also in HathiTrust.

The last section reviews copyright, U.S. Code Title 17 and its revision in 1976 with subsequent amendments. Copyright, administered by the Library of Congress is optional but gives greater hold in court. The website, www.copyright.gov/ includes useful information in flyers and circulars and records can be searched 1978 to the present. The Catalog of Copyright Entries is useful for historical copyright research.

The text is an excellent source for government information and would be recommended as a guide to learn about the federal agencies and related information or as a guide for teaching a class. There is a comprehensive index and six appendices, which include major federal databases.

The chapter on intellectual property provides an excellent overview from a PTRC point of view. It covers all of the key aspects, although not all of the specifics, for patent and trademark research. It includes points and descriptions not covered in PTRC seminars, so it would be a very useful tool even for those well versed in patents and trademarks research. The volume provides a basis from which additional research and discovery can follow.

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