

A Select Guide to Patent and Trademark Information

This guide contains a select bibliography of printed publications available at the NUS Libraries, as well as online gazettes and journals on current patent information. It also lists databases available to NUS staff and students for locating patent and technical information in various disciplines. Major patent databases which are searchable online for free are included as well.

Please check the online edition of this guide at <http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/bib/patents/> for updates and additional information on patent and trademark sources.

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What is a patent?

A patent is defined as “a grant by the government, to an inventor, conferring the right to exclude others from making, using, or selling his/her invention for a limited period of time.”¹ Patents not only serve to protect the interest of the inventor, they are also a valuable source of technical information. There are different types of patents, for example:

- A *utility patent* “may be granted to anyone who invents or discovers any new, useful, and nonobvious process, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof.”
- A *design patent* “may be granted to anyone who invents a new, original, and ornamental design for an article of manufacture.”
- A *plant patent* “may be granted to anyone who invents or discovers and asexually reproduces any distinct and new variety of plant.”²

What is a trademark?

A trademark is a “word, phrase, symbol or design, or a combination of words, phrases, symbols or designs, that identifies and distinguishes the source of the goods of one party from those of others.”³ Trademarks can be used to prevent others from making a similar mark which may cause confusion. However, it does not prevent others from making the same product, or to sell similar goods and products using a clearly different mark.

¹ Gordon, Thomas T. (1995). *Patent fundamentals for scientists and engineers*. Boca Raton: CRC Lewis.

² United States Patent and Trademark Office (2002). *United States Patent and Trademark Office: Glossary*. Washington, D.C.: USPTO. Retrieved 20 May, 2002 from <http://www.uspto.gov/main/glossary/index.html>.

³ United States Patent and Trademark Office (2002). *Basic Facts about Trademarks*. Washington, DC: USPTO. Retrieved 22 May, 2002 from http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/tac/doc/basic/trade_defin.htm

Bibliography of Patent & Trademark Sources

The following publications provide information on how to locate patent and trademark information. Item locations are indicated as: CL (Central Library), HL (Hon Sui Sen Memorial Library), LW (C J Koh Law Library), MD (Medical Library), and SC (Science Library).

A. General

- Ardis, Susan B. (1991). *An Introduction to U.S. patent searching: the process*. Englewood, Co: Libraries Unlimited. T210 Ard (CL Reference)
- Registry of Trademarks & Patents (1995). *Basic facts about patent protection in Singapore*. Singapore: The Registry. T313.12 Sig (CL Main Shelves, CL Sing/Mal Collection, CL Reference)
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office (1985). *General information concerning patents: a brief introduction to patent matters*. Washington: The Office. KB160 Gen (LW Main Shelves)
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office (1985). *General information concerning trademarks*. Washington: The Office. T223 Uni (CL Reference)
- Finlay, Ian F. (1969). *Guide to foreign-language printed patents and applications*. London: The Association for Information Management. T210 Fin (CL Reference, CL Closed Stacks, SC Closed Stacks)
- Kotler, Mindy L., & Hamilton, Gary W. (1995). *A Guide to Japan's patent system*. Washington, DC: Japan Information Access Project. KE3623 Kot (LW Main Shelves)
- Rimmer, Brenda M. (1980). *Guide to United States patent and trademark literature*. London: British Library, Science Reference Library. Z7914 Pat.R (CL Reference)
- Newton, David (2000). *How to find information: patents on the Internet*. London: British Library. Z699.5 Pat.Ne (CL Reference 8)
- Grayson, Martin (1983). *Information retrieval in chemistry and chemical patent law*. New York: Wiley. Z699.5 Che.In (SC Reference 9)
- Auger, C.P. (1992). *Information sources in patents*. London; New York: Bowker-Saur. T210 Inf (CL Main Shelves)
- Van Dulken, Stephen, ed. (1998). *Introduction to patents information*. 3rd ed. London: British Library, Science Reference and Information Service. T210 Int (CL Main Shelves)
- Newton, David (1997). *The Inventor's Guide: How to protect and profit from your idea*. Hampshire: Gower. T339 Inv (CL Main Shelves, HL Main Shelves)
- Gordon, Thomas T. (2000). *Patent fundamentals for scientists and engineers*. 2nd ed. Boca Raton: CRC Lewis. T339 Gor (CL Main Shelves, SC Main Shelves)
- Wherry, Timothy Lee. (1995). *Patent searching for librarians and inventors*. Chicago : American Library Association. T210 Whe (CL Main Shelves)
- Carr, Fred K. (1995). *Patents handbook: a guide for inventors and researchers to searching patent documents and preparing and making an application*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland. T339 Car (SC Main Shelves)
- Productivity and Standards Board. (1999) *Patent information: what you need to know*. Singapore: PSB. TS313.12 Pat (CL Media Resource)
- Lechter, Michael A., ed. (1995). *Successful patents and patenting for engineers and scientists*. New York: IEEE Press. KF3114.8 Eng.Su (CL Main Shelves, SC Main Shelves)
- Arrigucci, Mario (1992). *Trademarks: a comparative guide for 215 countries*. Florence, Italy: Morgana Edizioni. T325 Ari (CL Reference), JX6569 Tra.Ar (LW Main Shelves)
- Newton, David. (1991). *Trade marks: an introductory guide and bibliography*. 2nd ed. London: The British Library, Science Reference and Information Service. T325 New (CL Reference)
- Maynard, John T. (1991). *Understanding chemical patents : a guide for the inventor*. 2nd ed. Washington, DC : American Chemical Society. T211 May (CL Main Shelves, SC Closed Stacks)
- Armstrong, C.J. (1995). *World databases in patents*. London: Bowker-Saur. Z699.5 Pat.Wo (CL Reference 9)

B. Gazettes & Journals

The following publications contain current information on patents and trademarks. Many are accessible online with full-text.

- *B.O.P.I (Spain)*
<http://www.oepm.es/internet/bopind/primera.htm>
This is a Spanish-language website which provides full-text access to the current 4 weeks of BOLETÍN OFICIAL DE LA PROPIEDAD INDUSTRIAL (BOPI) in PDF format. Contains information on patents, utility models and trademarks.
- *Journal of Patent Associated Literature (JOPAL)*
<http://www.wipo.int/scit/en/jopal/jopal.htm>
The electronic format of the journal by WIPO is searchable online. It contains bibliographic information (1981 to current) of recently-published articles in "leading scientific and technical periodicals and which disclose new manufacturing methods and processes, new devices, equipment and arrangements thereof, new materials, or new applications of known methods, devices or materials." PDF version of monthly issues from January 1998 to current are also available online. See <http://ipdl.wipo.int/en/search/jop/search2.html>
- *Official Gazette Notices (U.S.)*
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/og/index.html>
Search or browse the official gazette notices of the United States Patent & Trademark Office from 1995 onwards. Consolidated listings of more important notices and rule changes from 1964-1998 are also available.
- *Official Journal of the EPO*
http://www.european-patent-office.org/epo/pubs/oj_index_e.htm
Published in their original format in the three official languages (English, French & German) by the European Patent Office. Data is searchable using the Search Interface. Full-text searchable issues from 1997 onwards can also be downloaded for local use.
- *Patents & Designs Journal*
<http://www.ukpats.org.uk/patent/notices/index.htm>
Contains PDF versions of the journal issues published by the U.K. Patents Office.
- *Patent, trademark & copyright journal*
A weekly publication of patent, trademark and copyright information for the United States. Library has v. 57 (1999) to current. KA1 PTR (LW Serials Sect, LW Bound Periodicals)
View library holdings at <http://linc.nus.edu.sg/search/?SEARCH=0148-7965>
- *PCT Gazette*
<http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/gazette/gazette.htm>
Published by WIPO, the weekly and special issues of the PCT Gazette are available in full-text from 1998 onwards.
- *WIPO Magazine*
<http://www.wipo.org/publications/general/121/2002/index.html>
- *World Patent Information*
The International Journal for Industrial Property Documentation, Information, Classification and Statistics contains information such as papers and new regulations concerning industrial property information and documentation, short reports of relevant meetings and conferences, as well as bibliographies, book and literature reviews. Library has v. 1 (1979) to current. T210 WPI (CL Current Periodicals, CL Bound Periodical, CL Closed Stacks).
View library holdings at <http://linc.nus.edu.sg/search/?SEARCH=0172-2190>

C. Indexes & Abstracts

- American Chemical Society (1981-2000). *Chemical Abstracts Patent Index*. Columbus, Ohio: the Society. QD1 CA (SC Closed Stacks, SC Reference 11)
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office (1984). *Index to the U.S. Patent Classification System*. Washington: The Office. T223 Ind (CL Reference, CL Closed Stacks)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (1989). *International patent classification*. 7th ed. Geneva, Switzerland: The Organization. T255 Cla.I (SC Reference 1)
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office (1984). *Manual of classification*. Washington: The Office. T223 Man (CL Reference). Also available online at <http://www.uspto.gov/go/classification/>

CD-ROM Sources

NUS staff and students and NUS Libraries external members may request for the following patent databases from the Information Desk at the Central Library.

A. Full-text databases

- *Espace-EPA: European Patent Applications*. 1978-
Published by the EPO (European Patent Office). Contains the complete full-text document images of the European Patent Applications in their original format. Updated weekly. See also *esp@cenet* under Internet Sources.
- *Espace World: PCT International Applications*. 1978-
Published by WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization). Contains the complete full-text document images of Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT) patent applications in their original format. Updated weekly. See also *esp@cenet* under Internet Sources.
- *PatentView*. 1974-2001
Contains the full-text of all patents granted by the United States Patent Office. Publication ceased after v.52 (25 Dec 2001). For information on patents granted after Dec 2001, check the U.S. Patent and Trade Office (USPTO) website at <http://www.uspto.gov/>.

B. Bibliographic databases

- *Espace ASEANPAT*. 1980-
Contains bibliographic citations of patents, utility models, utility innovations and individual design from ASEAN countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam). Updated irregularly.
- *Espace Access: European and PCT International Patent Application Bibliography*. 1978-
Contains bibliographic data and English-language abstracts on all European Patent applications and international PCT applications from 1978. Updated monthly. See also *esp@cenet* under Internet Sources.
- *Espace Bulletin: European Patent Bulletin Information*. 1978-
Contains information on the legal status of over 840,000 European Patent applications and more than 300,000 granted European patents. Also includes bibliographic data concerning appeals and oppositions. Searchable in English, French or German. Updated monthly.

C. Other databases

The following databases are useful for locating patent and/or technical information in various disciplines. NUS staff and students can access the online databases via the Digital Library at <http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/digital/>.

- *Biotechnology Abstracts*
Covers all aspects of biotechnology. Information is extracted from scientific publications, including primary journals and conference proceedings, and from the patents literature. Available online via the Digital Library.
- *BNA's Intellectual Property Library on CD-ROM*
United States Patents Quarterly (USPQ) is the primary component of the disk. USPQ features all important decisions on patents, trademarks, copyrights, unfair composition, trade secrets and more. Available from the C J Koh Law Library Loan Counter.
- *CAB Abstracts*
Contains information on European patents related to agriculture and biology. Available from Science Library Information Desk.
- *Compendex*
Contains engineering information from over 2,600 published journals, books, conference proceedings, individual conference papers, technical reports, and monographs. Available online via the Digital Library.
- *Food Science & Technology Abstracts*
Contains information from scientific journals as well as information from patents, books, conference proceedings, reports, pamphlets, and legislation in more than 40 languages. Available online via the Digital Library.
- *INSPEC*
Contains information on electrical and electronic engineering, computing, physics, etc. Available online via the Digital Library.

- *Metadex Collection*
Contains information on metals, polymers, ceramics, etc. Available from Central Library Information Desk.
- *NTIS Bibliographic Database*
Provides citations to abstracts of technical reports from US and non-US government sponsored research, development and engineering analyses. Available from Central Library Information Desk.
- *Science Citation Index Expanded*
A multidisciplinary database covering the journal literature of the Sciences. Searches cited references to patents. Available online via the Digital Library.

Internet Sources

A. Subscribed databases

The following databases are available to all NUS staff and students via the Digital Library at <http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/digital/>

- *Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe*
Under the 'Legal Research' category, select 'Patents' under 'Patent Research.' Contains the full-text (excluding graphics) of U.S. patents issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office from 1971 to present. Searches utility, plant and design patents, re-examination certificates, statutory invention registrations and defensive publications by keyword, patent number, or U.S. classification number.
- *SciFinder Scholar (including Chemical Abstracts)*
Contains chemistry-related information from biotechnology to environmental science and toxicology, including patents from 29 national patent offices and two international bodies.

B. WWW databases

The following websites offer free access to bibliographic information on patents. Some websites offer full-text patent documents and/or images for free.

- *Canadian Patents Database*
<http://patents1.ic.gc.ca/>
Searches over 75 years of patent descriptions and images from 1920 to current. Contains over 1.4 million patent documents. Links to Canadian Trade-Marks Database. Provided by the Canadian Industrial Property Office.
- *Delphion Intellectual Property Network*
<http://www.delphion.com/>
Searches granted U.S. Patents (1971 – present) for free. Full-text access to patent documents is not provided free. Certain features such as advanced searching and access to European Patents, Patent Abstracts of Japan, WIPO PCT publications and INPADOC Family and Legal Status database are only available to paid subscribers.
- *DEPATISnet*
<http://www.depatismet.de/>
Option to search in English or German. The in-house patent information of the German Patent and Trademark Office (DPMA), it searches patent publications from around the world including DE/WO/CA/AU patents. Full-text PDF documents including drawings, descriptions, claims are available for free for most of the retrieved patents. Beginner and expert search options available.
- *Esp@cenet (European Patent Office)*
<http://ep.espacenet.com>
Selected full-text document images available for free. Esp@cenet searches the following:
 - United Kingdom Patents
 - Patents from other European countries
 - European (EP) Patents
 - PCT (WO) Patents
 - Patents throughout the World
 - Japanese Patents
 - a) Contains patent applications in their original language for patents published by the European Patent Office (EPO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (PCT). Current two years only.
 - b) Contains English-language abstracts of patent applications by Japanese applicants. Updated monthly. Coverage starts from October 1976.
 - c) Contains over 30 million documents on patent applications from over 50 countries/regions. Searches document titles and abstracts in English.

- *Industrial Property Digital Library*
http://www.ipdl.jpo.go.jp/homepg_e.ipdl
 Search for Japanese patent and trademark information via the Patent Abstracts of Japan (PAJ), Patent and Utility Model Gazette DB (English), Patent and Utility Model Concordance, or the Japanese Trademark Database, or the Japanese Figure Trademarks. Also searchable by FI/F-Term used by the Japan Patent Office.
- *Intellectual Property Digital Library (WIPO)*
<http://ipdl.wipo.int/en/search/search.shtml>
 Searches collections hosted by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), including the PCT Electronic Gazette, Madrid Express Database, Hague Express, and JOPAL.
- *Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)*
<http://www.ipos.gov.sg/index.html>
 - *SurfIP*
<http://www.surfip.gov.sg/>
 Search for patents across various organizations such as IPOS, JPO-IPDL, WIPO, CIPO, EPO, Taipei PI, UKPO and USTPO. Users can also register for a free personal membership plan for enhanced search features and other value-added services.
 - *ePatents*
<http://www.ePatents.gov.sg/>
 Searches bibliographic information on all patent applications filed with the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) for free. Access to published patent register and patent specifications is available with paid subscription.
- *IP Australia*
<http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/index.html>
 Search the patents, trademarks and designs databases granted by IP Australia.
- *Patent information on the Internet*
<http://www.european-patent-office.org/online/index.htm>
 Provides links to patent offices, classifications systems, and patent databases.
- *PIPACS: Public Industrial Property Databases Family*
<http://www.mszh.hu/English/db/>
 Searches the full collection of the Hungarian patents, utility models, trademarks and designs in a single user interface. Produced by the Hungarian Patent Office.
- *Recherche Brevets*
<http://www.inpi.fr/brevet/html/titre/index.htm>
 This is a French-language website which searches the French national patent applications.
- *RUABRU/RUABEN*
<http://www.fips.ru/ensite/>
 Searches Abstracts Database of Russian Applications and Patented Inventions in Russian (1994 to current) and Abstracts Database of Russian Patented Inventions in English (1994 to current). Free registration required.
- *U.K. Patent Office Databases*
<http://www.ukpats.org.uk/search/>
 Provides date-to-date information on status and details of applications and granted rights. Search designs, patents and trade marks databases
- *U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)*
<http://www.uspto.gov/>
 - *Patent Full-text and Full-Page Image Databases*
<http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html>
 Search bibliographic and full-text content of U.S. patents from 1 January 1976 to the most recent week issued. Requires a TIFF image browser plug-in for viewing patent images. See <http://www.uspto.gov/web/menu/viewers.html> for info on the plug-in.
 - *Trademark Information (U.S.)*
<http://www.uspto.gov/main/trademarks.htm>
 Search the Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS) via the USPTO website.