Using Expand Feature in Patsnap

Access Patsnap [http://linc.nus.edu.sg/record=2711099].
Guide on How to Register for Patsnap User Account (for NUS Staff and Students Only) [http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/ilp/pat/gui/Patsnap-login_1st.pdf].

What is Expand in Patsnap?
This “Expand” feature may be good if you are not familiar with search terms and want to explore further to get more keywords before searching. It currently support searching in English and Chinese.

You can also enter a single word or a phrase or a paragraph. This feature may help you to see additional terms associated with the words which you had entered.

Login to Patsnap. Bring your mouse over “Search” and you will see various options below. Next, click on “Expand”.

Enter the text in the search box and click on “Extend Topics”. You can search both in English or Chinese characters.
Patsnap will return with a list of key terms associated with the text that you had entered earlier. Click on the drop-down menu to expand the list of terms associated with the word or phrase. This may help you to find other relevant words or phrases.

You can select up to 20 terms and use them to search within certain fields e.g. “Title/Abstracts” (click on the drop-down menu).

Example of a single word search (graphene).

When I searched “graphene” in the Title/Abstract field, I managed to retrieve 35,277 applications [documents]. But by using this Expand function, I retrieved a total of 75,406 applications [documents] with the additional phrases and words I had selected. The results may vary according to the number of words or phrases you selected.

Patsnap automatically combined all the phrases using the “OR” Boolean operator.

Take a look to see if you are on the right track and are retrieving relevant results.

The results list may be too many to view. You may want to use the “Refine” feature to add more keywords or use one of the pre-defined options (on left of results screen). Or you can conduct a new search using the words and phrases you had previously found.
See Search Syntax Tab for more information regarding different Boolean Operators used in Patsnap (http://analytics.patsnap.com.libproxy1.nus.edu.sg/page/searchHelper)

Example of a Paragraph Search

You can also copy and paste a paragraph in the “Expand” search screen. After Patsnap has returned the results, do review to see if there is a need to revise the search statement.

For example, I selected some terms from a list of words relating to QR code. And I can also choose to search these words in certain fields e.g. title.

Patsnap returned results with the following search statement:
TTL:("barcode" or "QR code" or "bar code" or "two-dimensional barcode" or "two-dimensional bar code" or "machine-readable code" or "binary code" or "decoder" or "data code")

As the words are related to different concepts, I can choose to revise the search statement manually:
TTL:("barcode" or "QR code" or "bar code" or "two-dimensional barcode" or "two-dimensional bar code" or "machine-readable code") AND ("binary code" or "decoder" or "data code")

Other Tips

Saving To WorkSpace

You may save the relevant patents to your workspace (note: you must have a Patsnap Account).

View some full text documents to see if they are relevant. Look out for the other keywords or terms that you may have missed and the patent classifications assigned in these patent records. Use them to conduct further or new searches in Patsnap.
This is only one technique to find patents. You can also use other techniques to find relevant patents for your topic such as semantic search, keyword search or patent classification search.

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