Expand Your Search Using Patent Classification Codes 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/learning/patents/gui/Patsnap-login_1st.pdf].

What are Patent Classifications?
- A hierarchical system to classify the patents according to the areas of technologies.
- There are a few common classification system used:
  - International Patent Classification (IPC) [http://www.wipo.int/classifications/ipc/en/]
  - US patent classification (UPC) [for US patents only] [http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/classification/]
  (Replaced by Cooperative Patent Classification as at 1 Jan 2013)
  - Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)
      Jointly managed by United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and European Patent Office (EPO)
  - International Classification for Industrial Designs (Locarno Classification) [http://www.wipo.int/classifications/locarno/en/]


Usefulness of Searching by Patent Classification Codes

- Search foreign language patents
  For example, some foreign language patents may not be searchable by English keywords
- Search old patents (e.g. pre-1976 patents in USPTO site)
- Searching patents based on their technical areas rather than relying on keywords search

Example: International Patent Classification (IPC)
“A62B35/04” as explained in WIPO site (http://www.wipo.int/ipcpub)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Human Necessities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A62</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Life-Saving; Fire-Fighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A62B</td>
<td>Subclass</td>
<td>DEVICES, APPARATUS OR METHODS FOR LIFE-SAVING (valves specially adapted for medical use A61M 39/00; composition of chemical substances used in respirators, gas-masks, breathing apparatus or the like A62D; rescuing from mountains or trees A63B 27/00, A63B 29/00; life-saving devices, apparatus or methods specially adapted for use in water B63C 9/00; divers’ equipment B63C 11/00; specially adapted for use with aircraft, e.g. parachutes or ejector seats, B64D; rescue devices peculiar to mining E21F 11/00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We will use the International Patent Classification (IPC) as an example to show how to search in Patsnap.

**Suggested Search Steps Using Patent Classifications in Patsnap**

(1) **Searching Classification When Viewing Full Text Documents**

1) Use different techniques to find relevant patents
2) Review the patents to find the most relevant results. Take note of the classification codes found in these records.
3) Mouse over to get a description of the classification scheme. Review to see if this is relevant to you.
4) Select the classification code by clicking on the hyperlink (e.g. A62B35/04) to find other relevant patents with the same code.

For example
US6425458 - Falling safeguard device

**Example:**
Mouse over one of the classification fields found in this record. In this case, “International Classification”. Go through the classification code(s) to see if it is relevant to what you are looking for. If yes, click on the code to generate a new set of search results.
(2) Searching At Classification Page

Under the Search menu, select to the “Classification” icon.
Browse or search for the relevant IPC classification. Click on the hyperlink to search for the patents that has this classification number.

This may be useful if you have some relevant classification codes used in your area of technology and want to explore related patents.

For example, type “A62B35/04” if you are searching for this specific code. You can also type “A62B” or “A62B35” to browse for the other groups or subgroups. Click on the hyperlink to search for patents with this classification code.

You can also enter words in the search box to find classification containing the text that you had entered.
(3) **Searching At Advanced Search Page**

If you need help to find the relevant codes, click on the “IPC Helper” button at the “Advanced” page. Enter the terms you want to search. Click on the relevant classification code(s) to add to the field to be searched.

**Additional Tips:**

- Too many patent documents? Combine the classification code with one or more keywords to narrow or reduce search results to manageable level.
- Too few results or the results are not relevant? Try searching using the broader classification, that is, enter search as A62B35 instead of A62B35/04. You can combine results with keywords.
- Classification codes may be updated over the years. Search the updated classification codes found in databases instead of using the codes found in the original patent documents. The latest edition of the IPC code is the 8th edition and is indicated as IPC(8) in Patsnap.
- See example on next page.

US6225981
Classifications found in original patent document granted in 2001.
(51) Int. CL7 .............................................................. G09G 5/08
(52) U.S. CL ......................................................... 345/164; 345/163
(58) Field of Search ........................................... 345/156–165;
D14/117.1, 117.2, 117.3; 463/37

Classifications found in Patsnap

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<td>IPC(1-7): G09G5/08</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>UPC</td>
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- Additional guides or help are also available on various patent offices (e.g. USPTO, EPO)

This is only one technique to search for patents. You can also use other techniques to find relevant patents for your topic such as semantic search, expand search or keyword search.

Loh Mee Lan
Senior Librarian (Education & Learning Services), NUS Libraries
Last revised: 17 July 2020
Patent_Classification_Search.docx