Patents

1. What subjects and publication types are included in the database?

   USPTO: US Patents
   Google Patent: US Patents
   Esp@cenet: US Patents & Worldwide Patents
   SciFinder: Chemical Patents
   Reaxys: Chemical Patents
   Orange Book (FDA): Pharmaceutical Patents

2. What are the coverage dates?

   USPTO: 1790 – present
   Google Patent: 1790 – present
   Esp@cenet: 1836 – present (US Patents)
   SciFinder: 1907 – present
   Reaxys: 1976 – Present (English Language)
   Orange Book (FDA): ~1988 – present

3. What Boolean or Proximity operators are used by the database?

   USPTO: AND, OR, ANDNOT
   Google Patent: See Google practice (week 2)
   Esp@cenet: AND, OR, NOT
   SciFinder: See SciFinder practice (week 3)
   Reaxys: See Reaxys practice (week 5)
   Orange Book (FDA): not allowed

4. If truncation is allowed then what symbols are used?

   USPTO: $ = a string of characters of any length
   BUT it is field dependent
   Must have a minimum of 4 characters
   Example: find$ correct
   eye$ incorrect
   Google Patent: See Google practice (week 2)
   Esp@cenet: * = a string of characters of any length
   ? = zero or one character
   # = exactly one character
   SciFinder: See SciFinder practice (week 3)
   Reaxys: * = a string of characters of any length
   Orange Book (FDA): automatic
5. If wildcards are allowed then what symbols are used?

**USPTO:**
$ = \text{a string of characters of any length}
\text{BUT it is field dependent}

**Google Patent:**
See Google practice (week 2)

**Esp@cenet:**
not allowed

**SciFinder:**
See SciFinder practice (week 3)

**Reaxys:**
* = \text{a string of characters of any length}

**Orange Book (FDA):**
none

6. How do you search for a phrase?

**USPTO:**
Field dependent
Quotes around the phrase in some fields
Hyphens between the terms in some fields

**Google Patent:**
See Google practice (week 2)

**Esp@cenet:**
quotes around the phrase

**SciFinder:**
See SciFinder practice (week 3)

**Reaxys:**
Use NEXT operator between terms

**Orange Book (FDA):**
automatic

7. Is it possible to group words from the same concept?

**USPTO:**
Yes

**Google Patent:**
No

**Esp@cenet:**
No

**SciFinder:**
No

**Reaxys:**
Yes

**Orange Book (FDA):**
no

8. Any unique features?

**USPTO:**
1976 – present: Full text searchable
1790 – 1975: Searchable by Patent Number, Issue Date, and Classification Code
Allows you to do a cited reference search

**Google Patent:**
1790 – present: Full text searchable BUT OCR software has introduced some mistakes. For example:
Orville Wright is Oryi!!e Weight
William S. Harley is Wxedxaxc S. Hagley
You can see other patents that have cited a patent

**Esp@cenet:**
You can see other patents that have cited a patent

**SciFinder:**
You can see other items (articles & patents) that have cited a patent
Can search by a chemical structure

**Reaxys:**
Can search by a chemical structure

**Orange Book (FDA):**
Can see what compounds are in FDA approval medicines
Can see what patents are associated with medicines
Finding & viewing US Patents

Viewing specific patents – pat2pdf.org


1. Abraham Lincoln (16th US President) is the inventor of one patent – US 6,469.

   What is the title?

   When did Lincoln submit his patent application?

   When was the patent issued?

   Where was Abraham Lincoln living when he filed his patent?

       City          County          State

2. You and a male friend go to a bar. In the bar your friend asks a woman “What’s your sign?” She answers, “I am a patent attorney and would like to see you use US 6,293,874.” Was your friend insulted or complimented?
   (hint: look at the picture at the bottom of page 1.)

Find a classmate that has the following question and view the patent:

You attend a work picnic at a local park. At the picnic you see Bob from Accounting and ask him if he has permission from the inventor/assignee to use this US patent. What is the title of the patent? And does he need permission?

Go to http://www.uspto.gov/.
1. Click on >> Patents (right side of the window – part way down)
2. Find the Tools section (on the left)
3. Click on USPTO Patent Full-text and Image Database... (fourth bullet in the Tools section.)
4. Find the PatFT: Patents section (on the left)
5. Click on the Advanced Search.

Searching for Inventors

_ Inventors are _always_ people – never an organization or company._

Examples: IN/bauman-mark$
IC/"green bay" AND IS/wi
ICN/GT
ICN/KR

3. Ron Popeil has appeared in commercials and infomercials selling a variety of products over the past 50 years. Early in his career he was selling products invented by his father and uncle. Later he was selling his own inventions. How many patents does he hold?

[(you should get more than 50) Did you get 29 patents?]

1. Are you sure you know how he spells his first name?
2. Does he have a middle initial/name that he consistently uses?
3. Use the truncation symbol after the name (see example)

4. How many patents does Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple Inc. and founder of NeXT Software Inc., hold?

[(you should get more than 350) Did you get 290 patents?]
(See the previous question for a hint)

5. How many patents have been awarded to inventors from your hometown?

Record your answer on the chalk board.
Searching for Assignees

Assignees can be a person, a company, an organization, or a country.

Examples: AN/microsoft
           AC/”los angeles” AND AS/ca
           ACN/IT
           ACN/KR

6. How many patents have been issued to Genentech since January 1, 2011?

   (you should get 150-250)

   Limiting by date or date range?
   Go to the advanced search page and click on the Issue Date link to see how to
   search for a range of dates.

7. How many patents are invented by people or assigned to organizations based in Notre Dame Indiana? Do you know any of the inventors?

   (you should get more than 110)
   Hint: Did you search by inventor? How about searching by assignee. (Be sure to
         use the correct Boolean operators and parentheses if needed.)

Finding the current U.S. Class for an older patent

US Class and sub-class schema has changed over time. When there is a change all
existing patents have their class/sub-class numbers updated to reflect the changed
schema.

Example: PN/6429

8A. What is the current primary US Class and sub-class for US 2,752,339?

   (Hint: change the Select Years range)

8B. What was the primary US Class and sub-class when this patent was issued?

   (3rd sheet of the Parts of a Patent handout)
Free text searching

Title field (TTL/)  Abstract field (ABST/)
Description/Background/Specification (SPEC/)  Claim (ACLM/)

Examples:
- TTL/(orienteer$ AND map$)
- SPEC/genealog$ AND ABST/chromosom$
- ACLM/forensic$ AND SPEC/((digit$ OR finger$ or thumb$) ANDNOT securit$)

MUNICH, Germany, Sept. 27 (UPI) -- A New York state native living in Germany said he has obtained a U.S. patent for an invention designed to make creating snowmen easier.

A 45 year old patent lawyer with a background in engineering, said his beach ball-like spheres create "the perfect snowman" when a small generator gives them an electric charge, causing snow to cling to the surface of the spheres, the New York Post reported Tuesday.

"We have created the Internet. China is getting ready to send a person to the moon. And we invented Silly Putty, perhaps one of the all-time greatest inventions a big kid ever invented. Can't somebody build a better snow man?" the patent application reads. "Today is that day."

The Melville, N.Y., native living in Munich, Germany, said he obtained his patent after five years of attempts.

9. What is the patent number?

10. Who is the inventor?

Finding older US patents – Google/patents

Go to http://www.google.com/patents

11. On 11 Mar 1975, Ruth Siems et al., while working at General Foods, were granted a patent for instant stuffing mix. The trade name for this product is Stove Top.

What is the patent number?

According to google patent, how many times has this patent been cited or referenced by?
Finding older US patents and patents from other countries – Esp@cenet

Go to [http://worldwide.espacenet.com](http://worldwide.espacenet.com)
Click on the Advanced Search link to the left of page. Then select Worldwide as the patent database.

12. On 11 Mar 1975, Ruth Siems et al., while working at General Foods, were granted a US patent for instant stuffing mix. The trade name for this product is Stove Top. General Foods Corp also patented this product in Australia, Canada, and Great Britain.

What are the publication numbers and publication dates for the patents in those three countries?
(Find Ruth Siems’ patent. Click on the patent title then click on the INPADOC patent family link on the left.
What is a patent family? Generally speaking, a patent family is a group of patents which, like the members of a family, are all related to each other.)

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Finding Cited References - USPTO

When to use: 
- **REF** is a cited US patent search – only searches patent numbers
- **FREF** is a cited foreign patent search – only searches patent numbers
- **OREF** is a cited book, journal article, conference proceedings, etc. search

Click on the link in the chart to get more info about this field. Precede your search term with the <field code>/
Examples:
- REF/7,000,000
- OREF/bauman and OREF/smith
- OREF/“notre dame”
- FREF/2,188,638

13. How many times has Abraham Lincoln’s patent from Q1 been cited or referenced by other patents since 1976?

(You should get 1 – 5)
Finding pharmaceutical patents – FDA Orange Book

Go to http://www.fda.gov
1. Click on the Drugs tab
2. Find the Spotlight section (on the right)
3. Click the Orange Book Search link

14. Ezetimibe is the active ingredient for the prescription drug Zetia, which is used to treat high cholesterol levels.
   (Hint: click on the Appl No link then on the View link.)

   What is the Zetia patent number? _____________________

   When does the patent expire? _____________________

15. Pradaxa is the trade name (proprietary name) for a prescription drug used to prevent strokes by thinning the blood.
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Other problems:

16. In 1906, the Wright brothers were awarded a patent for the airplane they flew at Kitty Hawk NC. What is the patent number?

   The patent number will be lower than 1,000,000

17. List the design patent numbers issued to the Harley-Davidson Motor Company prior to 1924?

   The patent numbers will be between D50,000 and D55,000

18. In 1906, the Wright brothers were awarded a US patent for the airplane they flew at Kitty Hawk NC. They also patented their airplane in Great Britain. What is the publication number and publication date for that patent?
Patents

1. What subjects and publication types are included in the database?

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Finding & viewing US Patents

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1. Abraham Lincoln (16th US President) is the inventor of one patent – US 6,469.

   What is the title?

   When did Lincoln submit his patent application?

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   Where was Abraham Lincoln living when he filed his patent?

   City ___________________ County ___________________ State ___________________

2. You attend a work picnic at a local park. At the picnic you see Bob from Accounting and ask him if he has permission from the inventor/assignee to use US 4,022,227. What is the title of the patent? And does he need permission?

   (hint: Add the duration of a utility patent to the application date to determine when the patent expires.)

Find a classmate that has the following question and view the patent:

You and a male friend go to a bar. In the bar your friend asks a woman “What’s your sign?” She answers, “I am a patent attorney and would like to see you use this US patent.” Was your friend insulted or complimented?

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(3rd sheet of the Parts of a Patent handout)
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**OREF** is a cited **book, journal article, conference proceedings, etc.** search

Click on the link in the chart to get more info about this field. Precede your search term with the `<field code>`/
Examples: REF/7,000,000
OREF/bauman and OREF/smith
OREF/“notre dame”
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