



Database Comparison: Patents

Jackie Shane, University of New Mexico, jshane@unm.edu

Name of Database	What is it?	Coverage	Pros	Cons	Truncation, wildcard	Phrase, adjacency, Boolean	Notes
USPTO Web	Registered and pending U.S. patents	1790-1976 scanned images 1976-present searchable full-text.	Fast. Ample documentation.	Must load tiff viewer. Prints one page at a time. Searching <i>index to classification</i> and <i>manual</i> is not intuitive.	\$	Use quotes, Boolean only in command mode.	Pre-1976 search by class or patent # only. See PAIR for image file wrappers.
PubWEST	USPTO's database of U.S. and foreign registered and pending patents.	Full text searchable to 1976. Searchable OCR'd text 1920-1976. Begins 1790.	Good for searching older patents. Can search multiple databases at once. KWIC.	Complex sign-on (need secure ID). OCR'd (scanned) text often sloppy.	\$, left, right ? wildcard to (t?re and recycle\$ [ti,ab]	Quotes, adj; and, or, not adj# copper adj2sulfate	For experienced patent searchers.
Cassis	DVD's of U.S. patents.	1790-present Search abstracts back to 1991. Titles back to	Batch downloading, sorting. Loaded to	Must load a USAPat or USAApp disk to view each	* ?	and, or, not	Use when the Internet is down.

Name of Database	What is it?	1969. Coverage	workstation. Pros	patent. Cons	Truncation, wildcard,	Phrase, adjacency, Boolean	Notes
Espacenet	Foreign and U.S. patents and apps.	Varies by country. Applications for last two years. PCT minimum back to 1920. EPO back to 1880. JPO abstracts 1976-.	Extensive coverage. Can fudge number searches by omitting the country code. Broad search capabilities. PDFs instead of TIFFs. Translations.	Cannot search by U.S. Classification. Must convert to IPC.	* ?	Quotes, Implied “and;” explicit and,or not.	Use advanced search. PCT minimum allows for translation of major fields, such as title, inventor, etc.

Tips to filing a patent online:

1. Read the Guide to Filing a Utility Patent Application, the Guide for Preparation of Drawings, and Basic Facts about Patents.
2. Read the instructions at USPTO’s E-Business link. If filing for the first time, read instructions for first timers.
3. Open and complete ABX (icon located on desktop). ABX will query you for claims, description, etc.
4. Open and complete E-Pave. E-Pave is your declaration. Attach ABX and drawings to your E-Pave form.
5. Pay, print, and send. Your print-out is your only official copy of your application.