

Patent Searching

There are two ways you can do patent searching at SCU.

Important Note: If the computer you are using is set to block pop-ups, be sure to click on the pop-up blocker, and choose “temporarily allow pop-ups,” or you will not see your search results.

- 1) Go directly to the website of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO):

<http://www.uspto.gov/>

- 2) Go the Engineering Village 2 database interface on the library’s website:

<http://www.scu.edu/library/resources/databases/subject/engineering/>

Click on Engineering Village 2, and select “USPTO” under “More Search Sources” on the left side of the home page.

- 3) What’s the difference between the two methods of access?

They’re both searching the same databases of patents...the method you use depends on the searching interface you prefer.

Step 1: What is the publication date of the patent(s) you’re searching for?

There are three groups of patents you can search depending on the patent publication date:

1976-Present Full-text

1790-Present Entire database, but keep in mind that from 1790-1975, patents are only searchable by patent number (PN) and U.S. current classification (CCL)

1790-1975 Only searchable by patent number (PN) and U.S. current classification (CCL)

Step 2: What information do you have about the patent(s)?

1976 – Present

Quick Search: Fill in the field(s) where you have information, and click on search.

Patent Number Search: The easiest way to locate a patent is by the patent number!

These are the available patent fields:

Field Code	Field Name	Field Code	Field Name
PN	Patent Number	IN	Inventor Name
ISD	Issue Date	IC	Inventor City
TTL	Title	IS	Inventor State
ABST	Abstract	ICN	Inventor Country
ACLM	Claim(s)	LREP	Attorney or Agent
SPEC	Description/Specification	AN	Assignee Name
CCL	Current US Classification	AC	Assignee City
ICL	International Classification	AS	Assignee State
APN	Application Serial Number	ACN	Assignee Country
APD	Application Date	EXP	Primary Examiner
PARN	Parent Case Information	EXA	Assistant Examiner
RLAP	Related US App. Data	REF	Referenced By
REIS	Reissue Data	FREF	Foreign References
PRIR	Foreign Priority	OREF	Other References
PCT	PCT Information	GOVT	Government Interest
APT	Application Type		

If you have more than two search terms or want to use command-driven searching, use advanced searching.

What if I need a patent that was published before 1976?

Hopefully, you have the patent number or the U.S. Current Classification Number

To search for U.S. Current Classification Numbers:

<http://www.uspto.gov/go/classification/>

An example of a classification number is “426/16.” The first number is for the class of the invention. The number following the slash is the sub-class of the invention within the class.

Patent Classification Office: <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/opc/>

Printing Patents

Print or save the full image of a patent or the text only. The text can be printed using your browser's print function.

To print the full image of a patent, follow the directions on this page:

<http://www.uspto.gov/patft/help/images.htm#req>

A browser plug-in must be installed on your computer to view these files directly.

The .tiff images can be saved to any storage medium. The computer you use must have a .tiff viewer on it. The text can also be saved, but remember to choose the .html format or the .txt format.

If you prefer not to install a .tiff plug-in, for free downloading of patents in PDF format from the USPTO, go to this site. (Note: You must have the patent number to search the site)

<http://www.pat2pdf.org>

Or download the PDFs from Google Patents at:

<http://www.google.com/patents/>

Note: Google does not have the most recent patents and applications—it is at least 6 months behind.

Other Patent Resources

Patent Searching at SCU (electronic version of this printed guide)

<http://www.scu.edu/library/research/engineering/index.cfm>

Patent Searching – More Guides and Tutorials

<http://www.scu.edu/library/research/engineering/index.cfm>

Patent Web Resources on SCU University Library website:

http://www.scu.edu/library/research/engineering/eng_res.html#patents

Sunnyvale Center for Innovation, Invention and Ideas (Sci3) (Patent and Trademark Library)

<http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/Library/Patents+and+Trademarks.htm>