



Leabharlann UCD  
UCD Library

# Finding Patents

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## *What is a patent?*

- A government grant to an inventor of the right to exclude others from making, using, or selling an invention, usually for a limited period
- Patents are granted for new and useful machines, manufactured products, and industrial processes and for significant improvements of existing ones
- Patents also are granted for new chemical compounds, foods, and medicinal products, as well as for the processes used to produce them.

## *Patent Search*

There are a variety of patent finding tools. The following list comprises the most important and common ones.

### [esp@cenet](#)<sup>i</sup>

- Freely available database search engine of the European Patent Office.
- Provides access to 80 million patents from all over the world.
- Includes patent applications and granted patents.

### [Irish Patents Office](#)<sup>ii</sup>

- The Patents Office online register and database search system permits free and unlimited access to the Office's patent register and databases
- The online registers and databases are updated on a daily basis, and therefore enable web access to an extensive repository of data concerning patents
- The system also provides convenient links to various International IP offices such as the EPO and the WIPO.

### [Lexis Library](#)

Go to our [database page](#)<sup>iii</sup> and search for the title (UCD staff and students only)

- The UK's leading provider of legislation, commentary and analysis. It also provides full text access to patents
- In order to search for patents, go to "Sources", select "Keywords" and search for "Patents". This will give you the available patent resources and you can select and search the database you are interested in.

### [U.S. Patent and Trademark Office](#)<sup>iv</sup>

- Freely available database provides access to granted U.S. patents and patent applications from 1790 to present
- To view the full text of U.S. patents you will need to install a TIFF plug-in for your browser. <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/help/images.htm>

## [PatentScope](#)<sup>v</sup>

This World Intellectual Property Organization service provides access to:

- PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) international applications
- The latest bibliographic data and documents contained in the files of PCT international applications as far back as 1978.

## [Google Patent Search](#)<sup>vi</sup>

- Integrated in general Google search; perform a Google search and restrict results to “Patents” under the “More” drop down menu.
- Alternatively, go directly to Google’s [Advanced Patent Search](#)<sup>vii</sup> menu
- Covers US patents and patent applications from 1790 onwards and European patents from European Patent Office from 1978 onwards
- Allows full text search as the patent documents are scanned

## [Intellogist](#)<sup>viii</sup>

This is not a patent search page, but a service that provides information about different patent search engines with comparisons.

Features include:

- Customizable charts that compare free patent search resources
- Interactive world map of patent search resources
- Reports on publicly available databases of patents and non-patent literature
- Links to many technical research resources, grouped by technical field.

## *Patent Application*

For information how to apply for a patent visit one of the following web sites:

- [Irish Patents Office](#)<sup>ix</sup>
- [U.K. Intellectual Property Office](#)<sup>x</sup>
- [European Patent Office](#)<sup>xi</sup>
- [U.S. Patent and Trademark Office](#)<sup>xii</sup>
- [World Intellectual Property Organization](#)<sup>xiii</sup>

## *Patent Statistics*

The World Intellectual Property organization publishes an annual [World Patent Report](#)<sup>xiv</sup> which includes statistics.

## Patent Journals

There are a few patent journals freely available online, e.g.

- [Irish Patents Office Journal](#)<sup>xv</sup>
- [The Official Journal of the EPO](#)<sup>xvi</sup>
- [IP Insight](#)<sup>xvii</sup>
- [Intellectual Property Today](#)<sup>xviii</sup>

UCD Library provides online access for staff and students to the journals *World Patent Information* and *Journal of the Patent and Trademark Society*. Go to our [e-journals](#)<sup>xix</sup> page and search for the title.

For patent law and cases search *Lexis Library* or *HeinOnline Law Journal Library*, available through our [database](#)<sup>xx</sup> page.

## Patent Blogs

There are a number of blogs on the web that keep you update on new developments regarding patents, new patents, etc. The following links are only a small selection.

[The Patent Search Blog](#)<sup>xxi</sup> - Regularly updated by Steve van Dulken, a former patent expert at the British Library.

[The Patent Librarian's Notebook](#)<sup>xxii</sup> - Peter White provides news on patents.

[Patent Docs](#)<sup>xxiii</sup> - A biotech and pharma patent law and news blog.

## Contacts

Patents can be relevant to a wider range of disciplines. For further information please contact your [liaison librarian](#)<sup>xxiv</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> [http://worldwide.espacenet.com/?locale=en\\_EP](http://worldwide.espacenet.com/?locale=en_EP)

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.patentoffice.ie/en/homepage.aspx>

<sup>iii</sup> [http://librarysearch.ucd.ie/V/RC4QBIKTVD1TB36A5N6DA29LNLGTSQAC8J4J1X29886KYIDYEK-52893?FUNC=FIND-DB-1&pds\\_handle=GUEST](http://librarysearch.ucd.ie/V/RC4QBIKTVD1TB36A5N6DA29LNLGTSQAC8J4J1X29886KYIDYEK-52893?FUNC=FIND-DB-1&pds_handle=GUEST)

<sup>iv</sup> <http://patft.uspto.gov/>

<sup>v</sup> <http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/>

<sup>vi</sup> <http://www.google.com/patents?hl=en>

<sup>vii</sup> [http://www.google.ie/advanced\\_patent\\_search](http://www.google.ie/advanced_patent_search)

<sup>viii</sup> [http://www.intellogist.com/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://www.intellogist.com/wiki/Main_Page)

<sup>ix</sup> <http://www.patentoffice.ie/en/homepage.aspx>

<sup>x</sup> <http://www.ipo.gov.uk/home.htm>

<sup>xi</sup> <http://www.epo.org/index.html>

<sup>xii</sup> <http://www.uspto.gov/index.html>

<sup>xiii</sup> <http://www.wipo.int/portal/index.html.en>

<sup>xiv</sup> <http://www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/statistics/patents/>

<sup>xv</sup> [http://www.patentoffice.ie/en/publications\\_download.aspx](http://www.patentoffice.ie/en/publications_download.aspx)

<sup>xvi</sup> <http://www.epo.org/patents/law/legal-texts/journal.html>

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- xvii <http://www.ipo.gov.uk/news/newsletters.htm>
- xviii <http://www.iptoday.com/>
- xix [http://librarysearch.ucd.ie/V/D47VFVGO1L4EBE78GJU4P7GP4U1NGSINE8KYB1RMDBIG6SJ1YV-43203?func=FINDB-1&FORCE\\_LOGIN=y&pds\\_handle=2072011162123227390782020117212316](http://librarysearch.ucd.ie/V/D47VFVGO1L4EBE78GJU4P7GP4U1NGSINE8KYB1RMDBIG6SJ1YV-43203?func=FINDB-1&FORCE_LOGIN=y&pds_handle=2072011162123227390782020117212316)
- xx [http://librarysearch.ucd.ie/V/IC3XGS7V2EARXBVRNVX36Y6UFN5RRPTHYJL3KXL3CT7CI11AG3-57665?func=FINDB-1&FORCE\\_LOGIN=y&pds\\_handle=2072011162123227390782020117212316](http://librarysearch.ucd.ie/V/IC3XGS7V2EARXBVRNVX36Y6UFN5RRPTHYJL3KXL3CT7CI11AG3-57665?func=FINDB-1&FORCE_LOGIN=y&pds_handle=2072011162123227390782020117212316)
- xxi <http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/patentsblog/>
- xxii <http://patentlibrarian.blogspot.com/>
- xxiii <http://www.patentdocs.org/>
- xxiv [http://www.ucd.ie/library/supporting\\_you/liaison\\_service/](http://www.ucd.ie/library/supporting_you/liaison_service/)