Legal Advantage

Patent Search -Tips Tricks & Tools

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Introduction

- A Patent search helps in identifying if an invention to which a patent application relates, is patentable or not.

- Patent searching is an art that requires both technical and patent knowledge, the ability to read and understand technical information in patent language to conduct a search for locating prior-art.

- With millions of patents publishing every year, the patent search is seeing a new era with automated databases and highly advanced tools.

- This material helps you with the patent search using
  - keywords,
  - classification codes & combination and
  - a few patent tools use

➢ **Stone Age**

- A manual index search was performed in the public search room at USPTO / Satellite search rooms at Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries (PTDL)

- Patents were classified into relevant classification titles (class) and stored in a shoe-box, since then the patent classification codes came into existence

- Later Microfilms & then CD-ROMs were used to store the patent data

You can search manually in the library of the USPTO in Arlington, Virginia, or in one of the USPTO depository public libraries in major U.S. cities. Begin by thumbing through reference manuals, such as the *Manual of Classifications*, for a list of patents to look at. Then get paper copies of those patents, kept by class in so-called "shoe boxes." In a depository library, you must look through microfilm copies of the patents.

History - The Ages of Patent Search

➢ **Computer era**

   - With computerization, the patent search was well-fixed with syntactical / command-based search using different computer patent databases

➢ **Artificial Intelligence era**

    - High-end tools made patent search user-friendly with huge patent volume

   searchable online at great speeds
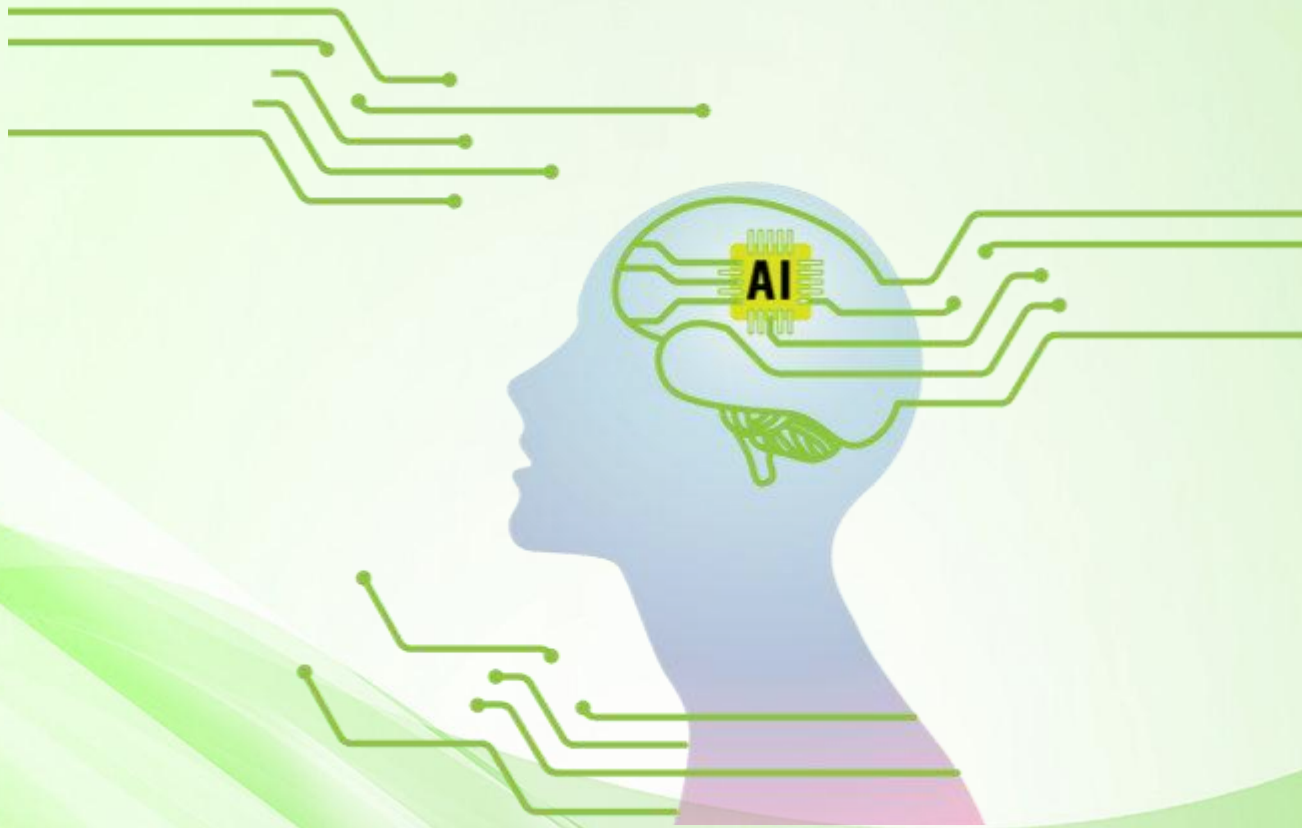
Keyword-based Search

➢ **Keywords** - A right keyword at right place helps a searcher in getting an

appropriate prior-art

o Search and collect all appropriate synonyms of keywords

o Prepare search strategies with proper syntax and truncations, covering all verb

forms of keywords

o The disadvantage with keyword search alone is, it yields high volume data which

has to be scanned/filtered further to find a right prior-art

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Keyword-based Search

➢ **How to find keywords?**

- Use thesaurus, synonym finder

- Use keyword suggesting tools provided by different patent databases

- Shown here are the keyword suggesting tools by Questel Orbit, Patseer and Derwent Innovation patent databases
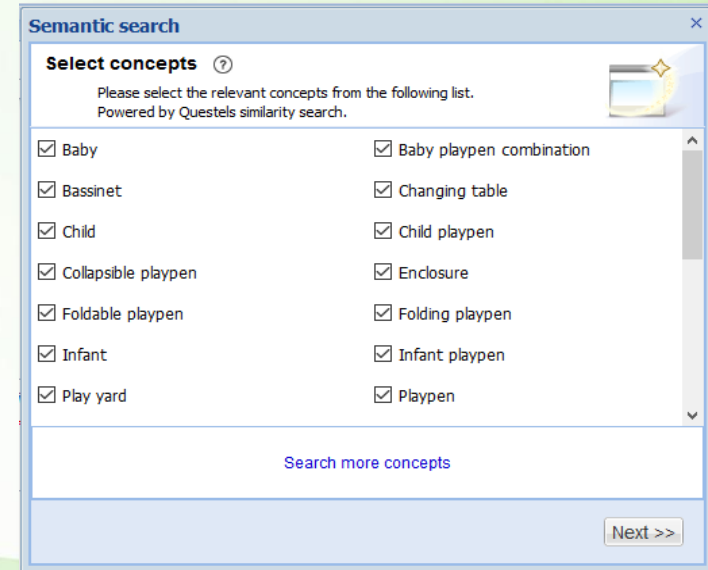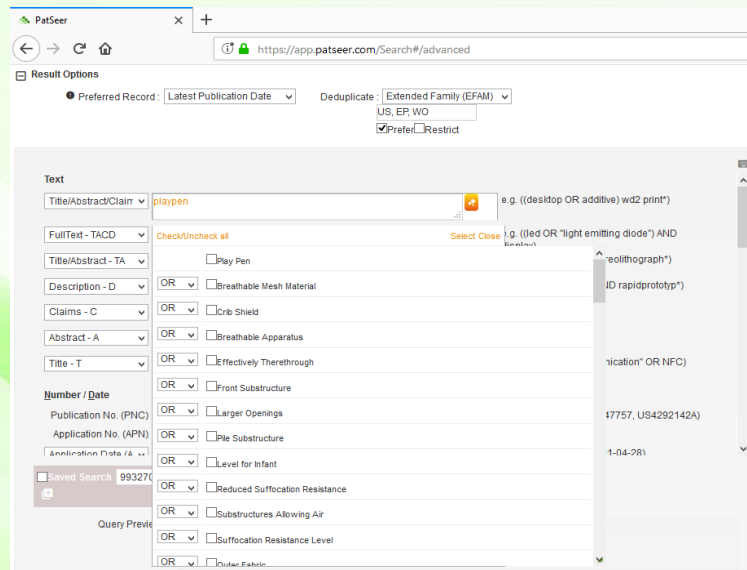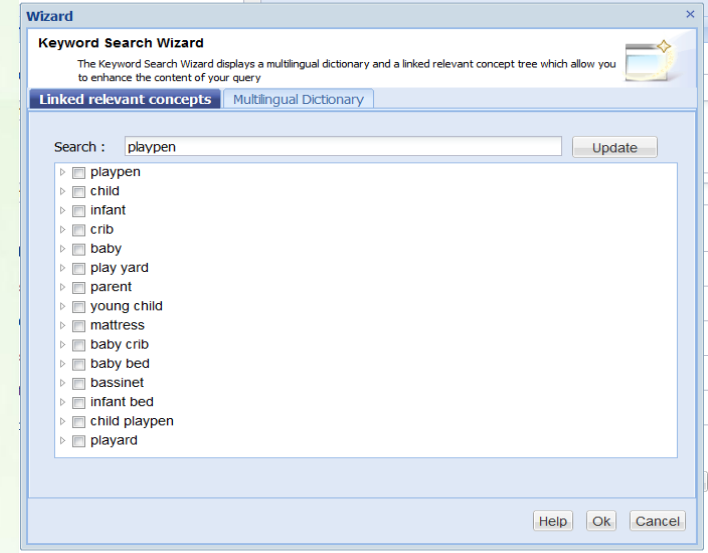
Classification Code Search

➤ **Classification codes**
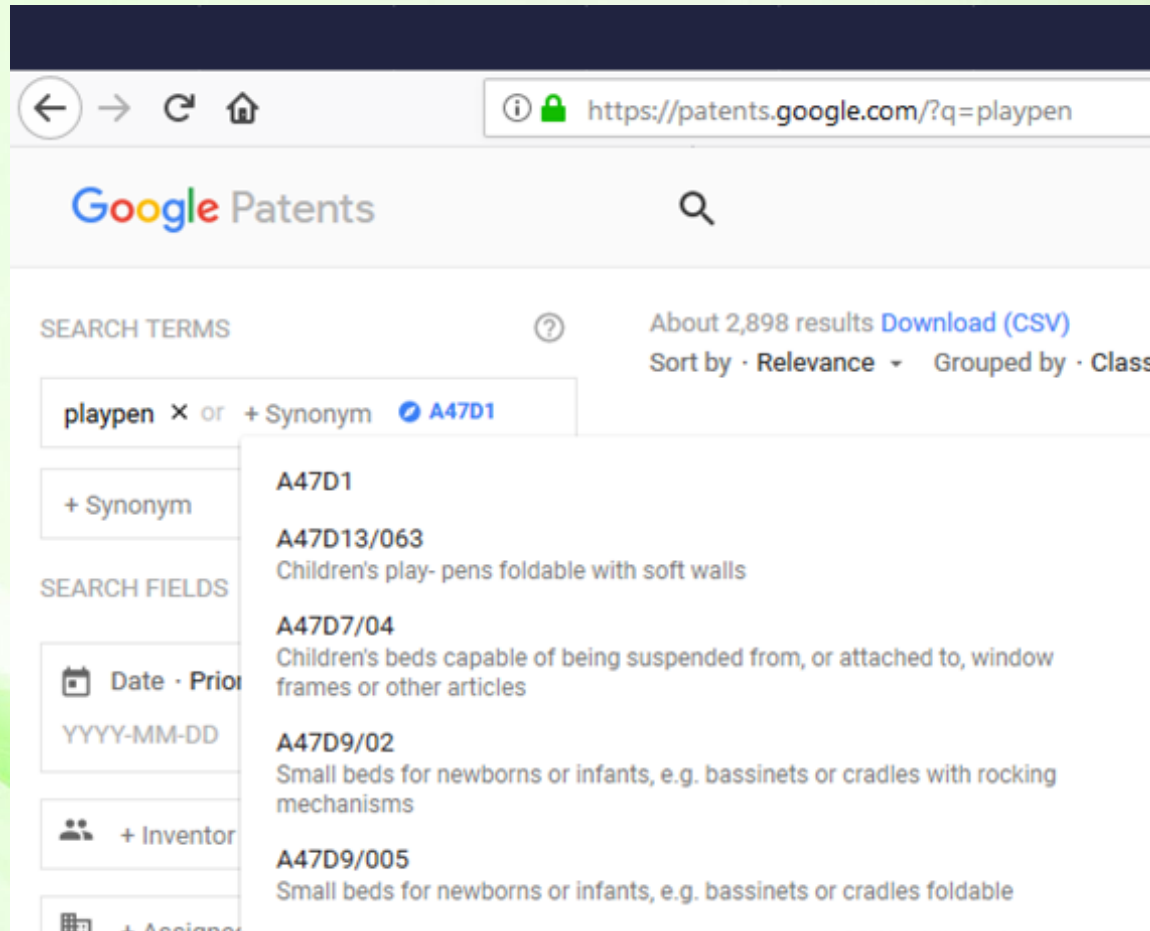
 - A single classification code can substitute all possible keywords falling in that area

 - Finding a right classification code consumes time, but a search conducted with the proper classification code reduces the time being spent on a search drastically.

 - A classification code retrieves patents specific to an inventive concept

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Classification Code Search

➢ **How to find classification codes?**

- **Google patents**: Put a keyword, Google automatically suggests codes

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Classification Code Search

➢ **How to find classification codes?**

- **Direct search from IPC/CPC**: Put a keyword and hit search button, classification codes

with those keywords will be displayed.

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Classification Code Search

➢ **How to find classification codes?**

- **Index search from US/IPC:** Parse through the Index/catchword to find

  appropriate class code

Classification Code Search

➢ **US/IPC/CPC Concordance:** Have a US code? Find it's equivalent IPC/CPC code using concordance feature

Keyword & Classification Code Search

➢ **Keyword & Classification Code Combination**

- Combining a keyword with a classification code gets a relevant prior-art quickly
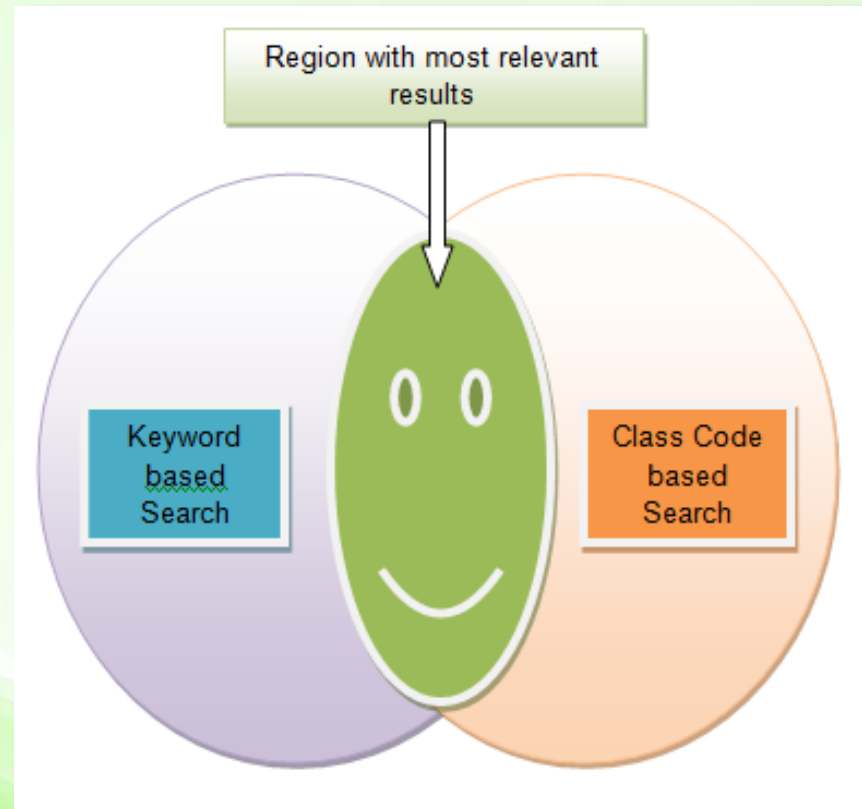
Citation Search

o **Patent Citations -** Patent citations can include backward citations (cited patents) or forward citations (citing patents)

   o **Backward citation search:** Earlier published patents available before the publication of a patent application are backward citations.

      o Searching for backward citations can help you find closely related patents and literature. Analyzing the backward citations of all patent family members can be helpful since different patent examiners cite different backward citations.

   o **Forward citation search:** Recent published patents available after a patent's publication are forward citations.

      o Searching for forward citations can reveal the continuations, updated technology in a particular field.

Assignee/Inventor Search

➢ **Assignee/Inventor –** An assignee/inventor working on a technology

always keeps improvising/advancing the existing technology

- o If you are searching for an art, try to find the major players in that area and review the patents of those players

- o Finding patents associated with an inventor or assignee may help you understand the work being done by that inventor/assignee

Construction vs. Functionality Approach

➢ **Construction and Functionality**

  o If a scenario arises where fine art is not available/discovered, then there comes the use of construction vs. functionality approach

  o No relevant art is found for a product with construction "C1" and functionality "F1", then look for a construction "C2" achieving the same functionality "F1" or the construction "C1" achieving a functionality "F2"

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Some Handy Free Patent Tools

➢ **Patent Claims Tree Tool**

- Tired searching legal status & assignment info, with patent claims tree add-on it's easy

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Some Handy Free Patent Tools

➢ **Patent Monk Tool**

   - OCR'ed larger, interactive drawings linked to patent text

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Some Handy Free Patent Tools

➢ **IPQwery CrunchBase**

- This tool automatically shows the patent and trademark holdings of any company profile.

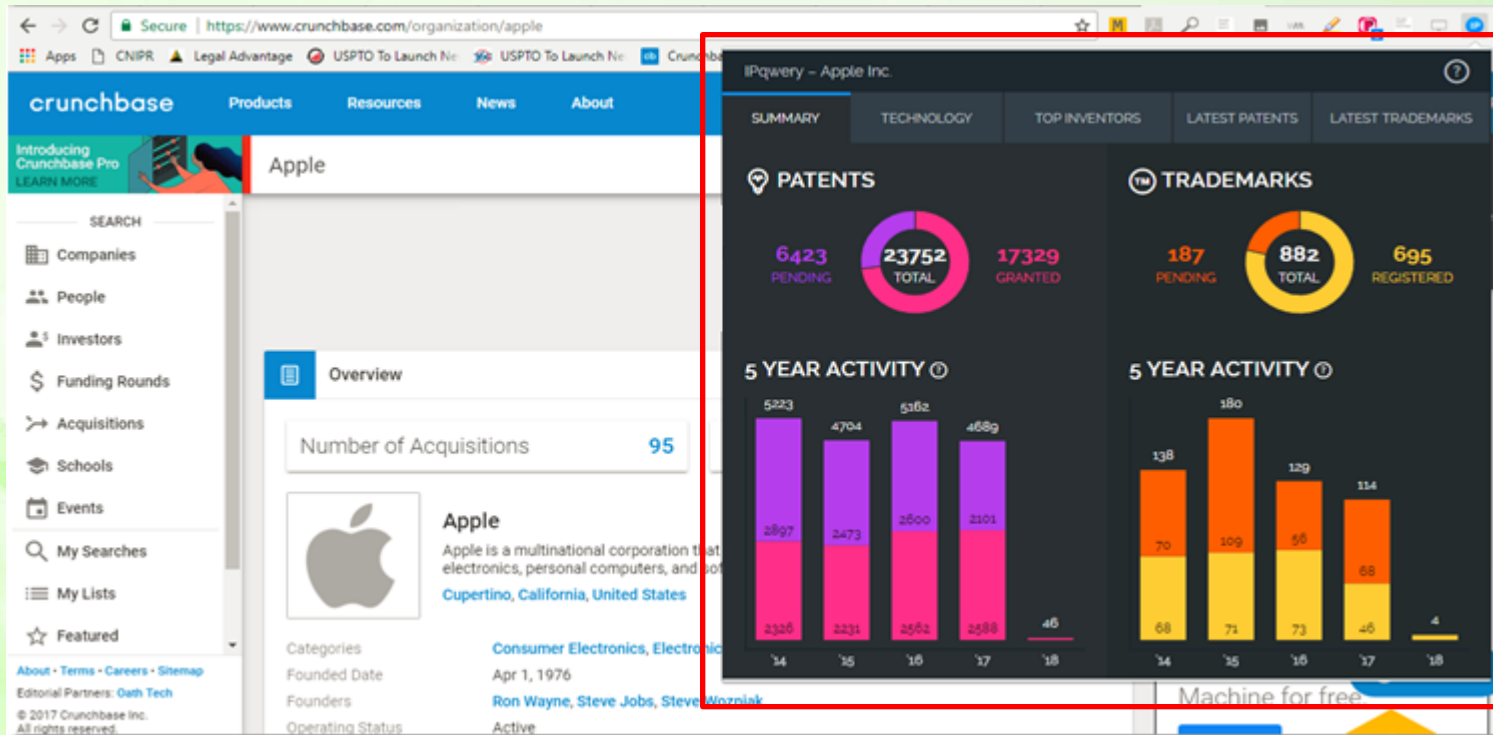- View recent filings, technology summaries, and inventors within a Company.

- Explore individual trademarks or patent details, with links to USPTO records

Reach us

If you would like to contact us for any additional information, feel free to call... or reach us through e-mail at inbox@legaladvantage.net

Cheers,

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- Thank you!

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